

صباح الخير

Saturday August 31 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various currencies including the US Dollar, Japanese Yen, and others.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,645

A new section starting today, with Blake Morrison, Simon Hoggart, Jeremy Hardy, Joanna Coles and Matthew Engel

the week

The danger of being a sibling



Thatcher 'ready to cut ties with Conservative Party'

Michael White Political Editor

Baroness Thatcher is preparing to leave the Conservative Party, which she led for 15 turbulent years...

are being promoted by some Goldsmith supporters who believe the former prime minister's disengagement...

defeat in the European Court on the 48-hour working week. "Some people say she'll jump ship and join the Referendum Party..."

going ballistic in that lecture. But she's been persuaded not to do anything silly. She'll be perfectly well behaved...

Their slogan will be "Europe - An Election Winner". But Tory sceptics know that key ministers...

see the single currency as a side issue. He is threatening to run candidates against MPs from the main parties...

'They know they will go to a hideous death if they do not remain here'

Running from Saddam

Six Iraqi women being held at Gatwick Immigration Centre after arriving on board the hijacked Sudan Airways jet on Tuesday...

Desperately seeking refuge



- Seven Iraqi men and six Iraqi women were on the hijacked Sudan Airways jet from Khartoum, originally bound for Jordan...

Controversial metal dealers cease trading

Patrick Donovan and Paul Murphy

WINCHESTER Commodities - the metals company which has been investigated by the Serious Fraud Office...

when it carried out a series of spectacular deals involving 30 per cent of the world's entire copper supply.

Alan Watkins and Ian Black

BASRA was the epicentre of the brief but bloody uprising that shook southern Iraq after the allied victory over Saddam Hussein...

safety. On Tuesday, six of the survivors found themselves in Britain on board a hijacked Sudanese jet.

treatment during their time in prison. Also with the party are the two children of a girl aged eight and a boy aged five.

she would be physically safe if she left the plane. "The trauma for these people contained when they were taken to the police station at Colchester...

application within the next three weeks. Iraqi exile sources said last night that the women's claims were wholly credible.

Letters, page 6

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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS



Palestinians from the West Bank encounter barbed wire and a wall as they try to avoid checkpoints and enter Jerusalem

Israeli roadblocks ensure few answer call to prayer

Jonathan Barry and AP in Jerusalem

HEAVY Israeli security barred most of the 100,000 or so Palestinians who were expected to pray at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem yesterday in response to Yasser Arafat's call for a demonstration against Israel.

It was also intended to test Israel's contention that it ensures freedom of worship in a city sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians. Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in force for six months, has barred most Palestinians from Jerusalem, including al-Aqsa, Islam's third holiest shrine.

narrow alleys leading to al-Aqsa were the same. "Look at this Jewish army. If they want peace why do they stand here. We want justice, but not by force," said an old man.

If [Palestinians] do not obey the call, the future is bad," said one worshipper.

Palestinians see him being increasingly humiliated by Netanyahu

close to the mosque, Israeli police turned away not only West Bank residents but those with Jerusalem identity cards, who can usually move freely.

mandated Ibrahim, a youth, as he watched Palestinians file towards the Old City.

There is a growing disenchantment with Mr Arafat among Palestinians, who are beginning to believe that the president of their national authority is incapable of standing up to the Israelis.

A senior aide of Mr Arafat, Nabil Abu Rdainah, was equally pessimistic. "The peace process is paralysed, the resumption of negotiations in practical terms is frozen and the contacts until now have not led to any results at all," he said.

Lawyer in prisoners' jail release row is named

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE lawyer whose advice triggered the mistaken release of 537 prisoners is named today as Stephen Parker, an in-house Home Office barrister.

Mr Parker, who advises on the legality of government policy, gambling, employment law and fire precautions, as well as prison matters, is said to be on holiday.

The Probation Service yesterday pressed prison chiefs for a list of the 537 let out as a result of the "sorry fiasco", so that it can keep track of them.

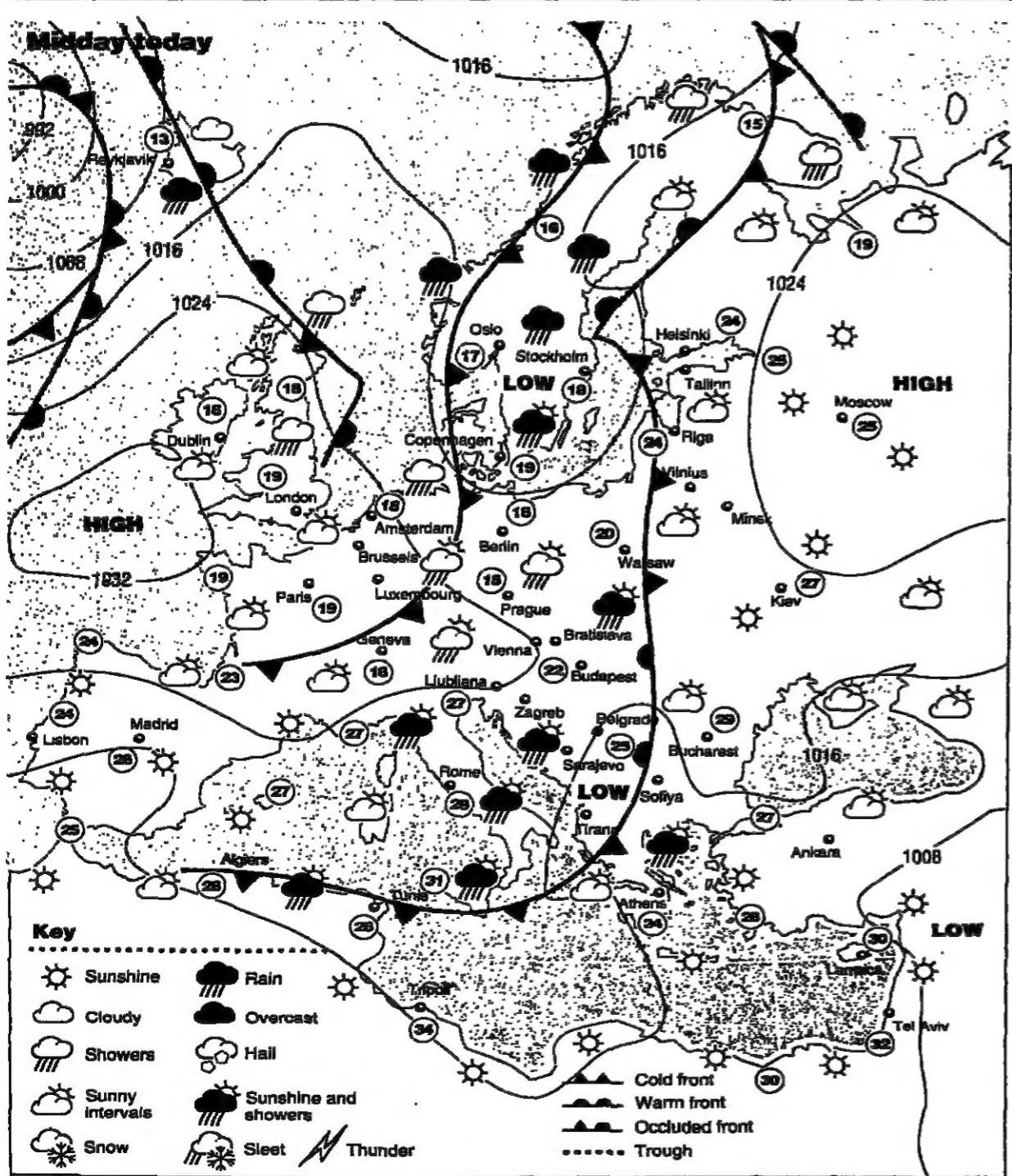
Mr Parker's advice was crucial to the recommendation of a Prison Service working group, chaired by Sally Swift, a former prison governor, that the rules on calculating prison sentences be changed and the programme of early release implemented.

Mr Parker and Ms Swift are expected to be questioned in the Home Office inquiry launched after the High Court on Thursday upheld Home Secretary Michael Howard's decision a week ago to block any more releases. The inquiry is expected to consider their future roles.

Mr Howard said this week that in future outside counsel's advice would also be taken on issues of such importance. The working group report went up the Prison Service hierarchy to Tony Pearson, director of custody. It was then approved by the executive committee before being sent out in the form of instructions to governors.

The Prison Governors' Association yesterday expressed its full support for Mr Tilt in the face of demands from Tony MP for him to resign his £77,000-a-year post.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

City	Today	Tomorrow
Algeria	21-22 S	22-23 S
Amsterdam	20-21 S	21-22 S
Athens	24-25 S	25-26 S
Berlin	19-20 S	20-21 S
Bombay	28-29 S	29-30 S
Buenos Aires	20-21 S	21-22 S
Calcutta	28-29 S	29-30 S
Cape Town	18-19 S	19-20 S
Chicago	20-21 S	21-22 S
Cairo	24-25 S	25-26 S
London	18-19 S	19-20 S
Madras	28-29 S	29-30 S
Mumbai	28-29 S	29-30 S
Paris	18-19 S	19-20 S
Rome	20-21 S	21-22 S
Stockholm	18-19 S	19-20 S
Tokyo	24-25 S	25-26 S
Yamoussoukro	24-25 S	25-26 S

Around the world

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	22	10	S
Amsterdam	21	10	S
Athens	25	10	S
Berlin	20	10	S
Bombay	29	10	S
Buenos Aires	21	10	S
Calcutta	29	10	S
Cape Town	19	10	S
Chicago	21	10	S
Cairo	25	10	S
London	19	10	S
Madras	29	10	S
Mumbai	29	10	S
Paris	19	10	S
Rome	21	10	S
Stockholm	19	10	S
Tokyo	25	10	S
Yamoussoukro	25	10	S

European weather outlook

South-eastern: An active depression centred over southern Sweden will move away slowly. Today will be unsettled over Norway, Sweden and Denmark with a good deal of cloud and widespread showers or longer spells of rain. Finland should be drier and brighter with spells of sunshine. Max temp 16 or 16C in the west, but nearer 20C in the east.

Television and radio - Saturday

BBC 1
8.55 News, Weather, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 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'Northern Ireland cannot withstand another summer like this one. The country crept right to the edge of the abyss. It pulled back and I believe it will continue to draw back. Rebuilding community relations and trust is now the force's top priority'

The new RUC chief, Ronnie Flanagan, who faces bitterness following the Drumcree march (right)



New RUC chief is ready for scrum

Christopher Elliott and Owen Bowcott

NORTHERN Ireland's police force shipped a generation when a 47-year-old former rugby player was yesterday appointed as the new Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Age and political acumen are thought to have given Ronnie Flanagan, a deputy chief constable and the son of a shipyard worker, the edge over Blair Wallace, the 58-year-old other RUC deputy chief constable and his main rival, who has vast operational experience. The third short-listed candidate was Bill Taylor, Commissioner of the City of London police. All three underwent several hours of examination by the Policy Co-ordinating Committee of the Northern Ireland Police Authority on Wednesday. The peace process has intensified demands for institutional reform of the RUC, while the violence and controversy surrounding this summer's Orange parades has revived calls for community accountability. Mr Flanagan, a Protestant who is married with three children, said yesterday after his appointment, which carries a £100,000-a-year salary: "Northern Ireland cannot withstand another summer like this one. The country crept right to the edge of the abyss. It pulled back and I believe it will continue to draw back."

Age and political acumen are thought to have given Flanagan the edge

Mr Flanagan has held a variety of senior posts in Belfast and Londonderry and has twice headed the Special Branch. He was also in charge of the complaints and discipline branch. Sir Hugh, who retires at the end of October after seven difficult years, welcomed his appointment. "The scale of the problems facing Flanagan were illustrated in condemnations of his appointment by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, and the Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. Mr Adams said there was a widespread view among nationalists that the force had no future and should be disbanded. Mr Paisley claimed Mr Flanagan did not have the support of most officers. morale had nosedived after the Drumcree stand-off."

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Alarm over BSE meat in baby foods

Paul Brown

MEAT banned for human consumption because of mad cow disease was used in baby food in the 1980s, according to government researchers.

Research buried for a decade in academic journals emerged yesterday as fears continued about the effect of meat infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy that entered the food chain without public awareness.

An academic paper first published in 1986 by staff at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist shows that mechanically recovered meat was used in infant foods and special diets for the disabled. That was in the same year the BSE epidemic was confirmed.

The paper was the first in a series by scientists working for the Ministry of Agriculture. A laboratory spokesman said the ministry wanted ways of detecting that kind of meat in food to ensure manufacturers were not making false claims.

Controls on offal use began in 1989, but it was not until 1995 that the Government banned mechanically recovered meat producers from using flesh from the spinal column for fear it carried mad cow disease.

The industry blasts off this kind of meat using high-pressure hoses. It is then processed into a paste that has commonly been used in sausages and meat pies. Baby food manufacturers deny they used it, but it was detected by government scientists.

Christine Gowdridge, director of the Maternity Alliance, said: "If this is true we would call for an early clarification of the facts by the Department

of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. They have to give advice to women who have been feeding their babies. We want information, not assurances."

A Ministry of Agriculture official said there had been extra concern about the possible contracting of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, the human form of BSE, by babies. If it needed decades to develop, then the earlier the exposure the greater the chance of incurable illness later in life.

Consultant microbiologist Stephen Dealler, a BSE specialist, said: "Using this meat was a silly thing to have done. Everyone should be worried. We have been taking risks."

Kim Laming, professor of food policy at Thames Valley University, said: "If we have allowed this sub-standard product [mechanically recovered meat] into our food we deserve the consequences. The consumer didn't know it was there but the food industry did — I think that it is culpable."

"Under pressure from its advisory committees, the Government has refused to ban this substance. It's another illustration of the way British food policy is driven by commercial interests."

But members of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee — which advises the Government on BSE — were unruffled by the disclosure. John Almond, of Reading university, said: "No one thought we should not feed this [type of meat] to babies. We would have said 'why not?' There was no reason to pick it out and say 'don't feed it to kids'."

The Infant and Dietetic Food Association, which represents baby food manufacturers, said that kind of meat was not now used in baby foods.



Robert Louis Tewdwr Moss... A flamboyant, sociable character with many friends. 'He was killed by people he trusted,' police say

Mystery of journalist killed in flat

Duncan Campbell on the death of a travel writer and gossip columnist, murdered as he worked on his latest book

A STORY of "mystery and bad blood" was how the Tatler introduced a feature in its latest issue, a tale of a family feud at the home of the 10th Earl of St Germans in Cornwall. By the time the magazine was on sale, the author was himself the victim of mystery and bad blood: tied up and murdered in his flat in west London.

Robert Louis Tewdwr Moss — he added the Tewdwr when he started writing professionally — was a freelance journalist and travel writer who had worked on many of Fleet Street's gossip columns, and was writing a book on Syria for the publishers Fourth Estate.

His feet had been tied with television flex and his hands with a cord from his curtains. He was gagged with the belt of a towelling robe.

"It was a particularly nasty attack," said Detective Superintendent Brian Edwards yesterday. "He was killed by people he trusted."

Mr Moss, aged 34, was last seen alive at 8pm on Friday, August 23, by a man who lodged in the basement of his flat in St Mary's Terrace, Paddington. He had received telephone calls from friends and family members that evening, which indicated that he did not go out. He is believed to have been expecting a visitor. The last call was after 10pm. The lodger found his body on

the floor of his flat at 11.15am the next day. The house had been ransacked and drawers emptied, but as far as the police can tell only Mr Moss's laptop computer and printer and the lodger's portable CD player were stolen.

There was no sign of forced entry. Det Supt Edwards said he did not feel that Mr Moss's homosexuality was an issue.

There have been a number of recent occasions in London when gay men have been tied up and robbed by young acquaintances. There was no sign of a struggle, indicating that he had been overpowered swiftly.

A flamboyant, sociable character, with many friends, Mr Moss, who had written for the gossip columns of the Sunday Times, Evening Standard and People, was working on a revision of his book, Cleopatra's Wedding Present: Travels in Syria, on the night he died. That work would appear to have been stolen with the computer. However, Mr Edwards did not feel there was any Syrian connection with the death, although Mr Moss had made a number of eccentric Syrian contacts during the course of his work. "I believe the motivation was robbery," he said.

A post-mortem last week indicated that he was asphyxiated by the gag. Further tests are being carried out. Mr Edwards said his in-

stinct suggested that more than one person was involved and that they either meant to kill Mr Moss or showed a "callous disregard" as to whether he survived.

The police want to hear from anyone who was near St Mary's Terrace, Paddington, last Friday night or Saturday morning and who may have seen something — possibly someone carrying property.

Mr Edwards urged journalists who had worked with Mr Moss to tell police what they knew about his life-style, friends and acquaintances. He wants to trace Mr Moss's movements over the past two or three months.

Obituarist, page 7

Radio 3 recalls sacked veteran

John Hazard

PETER Hobday, sacked from BBC Radio 4's Today programme because his interviewing manner was considered too polite and reflective, is to replace Paul Gambaccini as a presenter for Radio 3.

His appointment, announced yesterday, gives him sweet revenge on the down-marketing forces which 2,000 supportive listeners in the Save Peter Hobday campaign blamed for his dismissal. Mr Gambaccini, aged 67, is being phased out of his Radio 3 job from next month because listeners resented his "appalling" American vowels.

Mr Hobday, aged 59, who has more than 30 years of radio experience, will be one of three new presenters on Radio 3's Morning Collection. His colleagues, who have more experience with radio music, will be Catriona Young, who joined the BBC in 1978, and Penny Gore, who joined in 1986.

Radio 3's controller, Nicholas Karyon, who had defended his appointment of Mr Gambaccini as a move to increase listening figures, said yesterday: "The format and content of Morning Collection has been a great success with our listeners. I am very pleased we have such a strong team of presenters to take the programme forward."

Anne Karpf writes in today's Guardian radio review: "What he meant was, 'I had no idea that you were going to hate him... You can't possibly object to this lot, so let's just forget the whole sorry business.'"

Mr Hobday and Mr Gambaccini were unavailable for comment yesterday.

THE BBC's director general, John Birt, yesterday said plans to turn its technical department into a free-standing commercial venture but denied allegations of privatisation. The move is part of a series of changes to streamline the corporation and exploit profit-making areas. The Resources Directorate, employing 900, provides technical facilities such as editing suites to independent broadcasters.

Anne Karpf, the Week, page 15

Stress fear as independent girls schools shine in GCSEs

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

GIRLS schools dominated the top of the independent schools' GCSE results table published yesterday, as heads warned of the increasing stress of examinations on young people.

Jean Scott, head teacher at South Hampstead high school, London, where all the 94 children entered scored A* to C grades in every subject, and 33.8 per cent got A* — said pupils were sometimes under too much pressure, adding: "There is tremendous compe-

dition to get into university, and for over-subscribed courses like medicine and law."

At six other girls schools all candidates achieved A* to C grades — equivalent to the old O level — in every subject, while of a further 20 schools where the pass rate was 99.5 per cent or above, 14 were girls schools — reflecting girls' significantly better GCSE results nationally.

Independent schools also reflected the national improvement in GCSE results disclosed last week, with 196 out of 618 getting all their pupils to the benchmark of five A to C grades.

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Public, National and International Bid
No 01/96

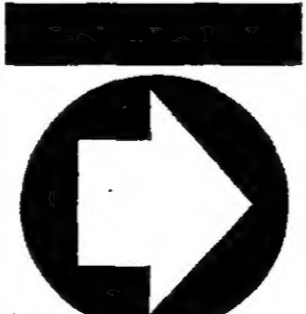
Full, indivisible contract of a service for the design, start up and support of a System of Migration Control and Identification of Individuals and of electoral information.

Interested parties may ask for information and purchase bid specifications of Subsecretaría de Población (Under Secretariat of Population) of the Ministry of Interior, at Avenida Leandro N. Alem 168 - 5° Piso - Capital Federal, from Monday to Friday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 AM as of the 30th day of August of the year 1996.

Value of the Bid Specifications: eighty thousand pesos (\$80,000).

Bids shall be received at the Subsecretaría de Población of the Ministry of the Interior, located at Avenida Leandro N. Alem 168 - 5° Piso - Capital Federal, until 12:00 noon of the 25th day of October of the year 1996.

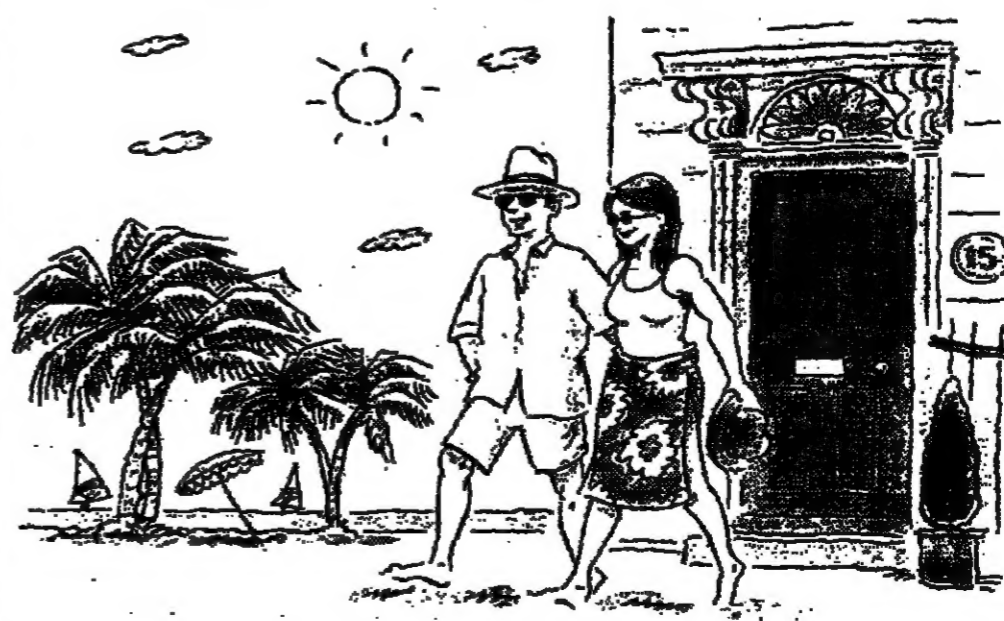
The opening of bids shall be carried out the same day at 1:00 PM at the Subsecretaría de Población of the Ministry of the Interior



It's a story which expresses a primal adult terror: the fear of one's children suddenly, inexplicably, disappearing. One can imagine parents telling it to each other in ages when children were commonly taken from them by illness and disease. Over the last month, it's a story that has become resonant again. Blake Morrison on the Pied Piper syndrome

The Week front

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The Belgian Thierry de Haan, who faces charges arising from police investigations of a paedophile sex gang, is lead to court. PHOTOGRAPH: OLIVIER HOSLET

Child prostitution in a post-communist boom

Jon Henley in Stockholm

ON THE roof of North Station in Bucharest live about 20 children. Most have not yet reached their teens, some are as young as three. They play there, eat what they can scavenge and, when they have no client, sleep there. If it gets too cold, they sleep in the sewers. These children are among the 600 living permanently on the streets of Romania's capital. At any one time, they may be joined by up to 1,500 more. The girls sell themselves for about a pound a time, or sometimes for a sandwich and a soft drink — in the station tunnels or nearby bushes. The boys may be "luckier". Around 50 men from Germany, France, Italy and Britain have rented flats in Bucharest and visit regularly. A Frenchman called Michel is particularly popular. He installs boys in his apartment for weeks at a time, feeds them, clothes them and buys them presents. Sometimes he pays a retainer of about £100 a month — almost twice the national minimum wage. "Prostitution is these children's life, it's their way to survive," said Gabriela Alexandrescu of Romanian Save the Children, which runs volunteer health and education programmes for Bucharest's street children. "They frighten you, they're so matter-of-fact about it. They beg you not to tell the

police about their good clients, the foreign ones. They are old, old children." For most people child prostitution means Bangkok or Manila. But researchers at the first World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children say the business is now booming much closer to home. "Across the region you see the same thing," said Christina Hagner, co-author of the first extensive report on child sex exploitation in eastern Europe, due to be published next month. An uncontrolled market economy has replaced the rigid planned economy, living conditions have plunged and the social safety net has been ripped apart. Interviewing police, social workers, civil servants, parliamentarians, health workers and children across eastern Europe, the report's authors uncovered abuse on a horrifying scale. The Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, has about 800 child street prostitutes, and 20 escort agencies provide minors. Riga, the capital of Latvia, has 463 registered sex clubs and an estimated 40-50 per cent increase in child prostitution in the last six months.

One Frenchman installs boys in his Bucharest flat for weeks at a time

Belgium hardens abuse laws

Stephen Bates in Brussels

JEAN-LUC DEHAENE, Belgium's prime minister, attempted to restore his government's credibility yesterday in the wake of the child abuse scandal by announcing moves to increase penalties for sex offenders. Mr Dehaene has been criticised for remaining on holiday in Sardinia during the last fortnight's revelations about the abduction of children by paedophiles allegedly led by Marc Dutroux, aged 39, a builder with homes around the city of Charleroi. Amid public recrimination, the government has been accused of leniency towards Mr Dutroux, who was released early from a previous sentence for sex offences and is rumoured to have been shielded by people in authority, including politicians. Mr Dehaene said the government had acted appropriately by issuing condolences and asking for a minute's silence in memory of Melissa Rueso and Julie Lejeune, both aged eight, who starved to death in Mr Dutroux's cellar. The prime minister promised that an inquiry into the police investigation would not be obstructed "whatever the consequences". Among measures agreed by the government is a new parole structure which makes decisions on "hot spots" which many contain more bodies. They were using a radar imaging device borrowed from British police, who used it to find bodies at Fred West's home in Gloucester.

Meanwhile, new revelations about the case brought more public anguish as Mr Dutroux's wife Michelle Martin, who was reported to have said that it was she who allowed the girls to starve to death while her husband was in prison. Previously Mr Dutroux had blamed Bernard Weinstein — an associate whom he has admitted murdering — for neglecting the girls. Police searching Mr Dutroux's six homes around Charleroi said they had detected two "hot spots" which many contain more bodies. They were using a radar imaging device borrowed from British police, who used it to find bodies at Fred West's home in Gloucester.

President favours single currency despite cost Chirac and Kohl to hasten EU union

Paul Webster in Paris

JACQUES CHIRAC is to defy a high risk of social unrest over budget austerity and fly to Bonn tomorrow to tell Helmut Kohl that France's faith in a single European currency is stronger than ever. The French president and the German chancellor are expected to make a new joint commitment to rapid moves towards economic union, which will anger French workers preparing for a "hot autumn" of strikes against government strategy. But Mr Chirac has told French ambassadors that the country's economy is fundamentally strong and will enable it to meet the 1999 currency deadline, which depends on strictly controlled government spending. In one of his most powerful speeches in favour of Euro-

pean solidarity since he was elected more than a year ago, Mr Chirac left no doubt about his belief that a single currency would rescue France from recession. Speaking against a background of threats of worse street protests than last autumn against pay freezes, cuts, Mr Chirac said France would be ready for a single currency on time because it corresponded to the interests of all French people: "A single currency will pave the way for lower interest rates and more growth and more jobs." His idea of Europe included the single currency, improved institutions, a common foreign policy and a joint defence system. He said he was determined to fight the disillusionment and frustration that the European idea had aroused in public opinion. He promised to

use his influence to speed through the reforms being studied by the EU's intergovernmental conference, saying: "A setback will open up a serious European crisis." The prime minister, Alain Juppé, asked the envoys to tell foreign governments that France had the desire and capacity to modernise and reform itself, despite resistance to a single currency. "This is a political project which Germany and France will carry forward together," he said. But his message that there would be no let-up in tough anti-inflationary measures could inflame internal opposition to the spending restrictions, which threaten to worsen the 12.5 per cent rate of unemployment. Despite a slight drop due to seasonal employment reported yesterday, France has nearly 3.4 million out of work, one of the worst records in Europe.

Confusion remains as Yeltsin backs Lebed

David Hearst in Moscow

AFTER a week of hesitation, President Boris Yeltsin gave his consent to the peace plan which his security adviser, General Alexander Lebed, began negotiating with Chechen rebels last night. His decision was announced even as Gen Lebed waited for the rebel army's chief of staff, General Aslan Maskhadov, to reach their meeting point in Khasav Yurt on the Chechen-Dagestan border. It was not clear exactly which plan Mr Yeltsin had agreed to and it fell to one of Gen Lebed's rivals, the prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, to claim that he, not Gen Lebed, was in constant contact with the president. Until the last moment the prime minister sought to undermine the position of Gen Lebed, who has become a battle-ground for rivals in the struggle to become the alling Mr Yeltsin's successor. If he is successful in Chechnya, Gen Lebed hopes to emerge as the second most powerful man in the Russian government. After publicly endorsing Gen Lebed as his favourite political son and heir during his presidential election campaign, Mr Yeltsin's attitude to the former paratrooper has cooled. He has retreated to an a

hunting lodge 80 miles north-west of Moscow and is refusing to meet Gen Lebed. When Mr Yeltsin made Gen Lebed secretary of the security council and his special envoy to Chechnya, Gen Lebed himself was surprised. The post made Gen Lebed responsible for the conflict in Chechnya, but gave him no power to act. Gen Lebed demanded extra executive powers, which he did not receive. If the negotiations fail, Gen Lebed will return to being merely Mr Yeltsin's security adviser. The talks on the Dagestan border are further complicated by the rebels' demands. Last night Gen Maskhadov pressed Gen Lebed with his own peace plan. The August 6 raid on Grozny in which the rebels seized large areas of the city — surrounding the seat of the federal government and all but overwhelming it — has given a huge boost to the separatist cause. But this has only worsened fears that, if the Russians withdraw, a civil war between pro-Russian and anti-Russian Chechens will follow.

Loyal Serbs fear sabotage from top

Milosevic's Bosnian supporters suspect he is helping stack the cards against them in the elections, writes Julian Borger in Doboj

IT LOOKS like an election campaign: posters have been plastered over every available vertical space, bearing slogans and well-faded faces endeavouring to look both resolute and kindly. Two of the faces belong to notorious warlocks — Arkan and Mllec. So far the pair have not been indicted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal, so their participation is within the rules, and in the extreme political world of "Republika Srpska" seems unsurprising. But two weeks before voting begins, something much stranger is happening in Bosnia's Serb homeland. The main challenge to the ruling separatist Serb Democratic Party (SDS) is expected to come from the republic's branch of the Socialist Party (SPRS), orchestrated by Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic. This contest is the main event of the internationally sponsored elections. It offers the strongest chance in all three communities — Muslim, Serb and Croat — of toppling one of the nationalist parties. Optimists in the international community believe that President Milosevic, hoping to curry favour with the West, will use his party to rein in the xenophobic excesses of the SDS regime after the elections.

The problem is that he seems to be doing his best to lose. The SPRS is running an election campaign of such incompetence even its activists suspect sabotage from the very top. Serbian pundits believe President Milosevic could only be making such huge mistakes on purpose. The question is why. Incredibly, the SPRS is campaigning under one name, and is listed on ballot forms under another. Its alliance with other left-leaning Serb parties is presented on posters and leaflets

what I find strange is that they keep campaigning under the other name." The SPRS headquarters in Benja Luka issued a terse statement yesterday, saying the discrepancy was an administrative error and the party would keep the wrong name. Milovan Stankovic, a retired colonel and newspaper proprietor, is the SPRS candidate in the central Bosnian town of Doboj. He laughs at the absurdity of the situation, but concedes it will damage party prospects. Mr Stankovic commanded Bosnian Serb troops in Doboj, which is flanked by two fingers of territory controlled by the Bosnian army. It was the only Serb-held town to suffer shelling throughout the war. Like many former officers of

businesses who advertise in it have been closed down. Mr Stankovic said he could withstand the pressure from the SDS if he had more financial help. "I am at the head of the SDS list for the region, and we have not got one timar from Belgrade," he said. The shabbiness of Mr Stankovic's offices and the poorly printed paper support his claims. President Milosevic's citizenship is all the stronger in the light of his reported financial support for other east European socialist parties. In Benja Luka there is more evidence of Belgrade's half-heartedness. After months of delays, Serbian engineers setting up a party-sponsored television station have only this week completed repairs to an antenna which will beam Serbian television into Republika Srpska. Dragan Janjic, a commentator for the independent Serbian news agency Beta, believes President Milosevic, surprised by growing hostility to the SDS in the republic, is now afraid of winning. "He doesn't want the SPRS in power after the election. He wants to be able to blame the SDS," he said. Mr Stankovic agrees, but explains his leader's motives more kindly. "Dayton is a child," he said. "You have to teach it to function. Milosevic does not want to be a nanny." The European Union co-ordinator in Mostar, Sir Martin Garrod, yesterday named six Croats believed to be paramilitary gang bosses and called on them to stop ethnic terror in the divided Bosnian city.

'Dayton's a child and must be taught to work. Milosevic doesn't want to be nanny'

as the Alliance for Peace and Progress (SMF). But it has registered with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is upringing the September 14 elections for the international community, as the People's Alliance for a Free Peace (NSSM). Even fervent supporters will have trouble picking it out on polling day. Tomas Mijalic, an OSCE spokesman, was bemused. "We got all their papers under one name, and then they sent a new name, a day after the ballots had been printed. It was too late. But

the Yugoslav national army, he remained loyal to Belgrade and regards the SDS and its wartime leader, Radovan Karadzic, as opportunists. But the 47-year-old now feels betrayed by the man he once worshipped as the leader of all Serbs. "I find Milosevic's policy towards us very strange. I get the feeling he is not interested in winning here," he said. Confusion over the party's name is only one of his problems. The state-run official newspapers refuse to distribute his opposition newspaper, the Alternative, and

Advertisement for the movie "Phenomenon" featuring John Travolta. The ad includes the text: "Travolta gives the dramatic performance of the year in this beautifully acted, often magical movie.it's impossible not to be moved." and "Delightful, endearing, a romantic comedy that will have you laughing and crying tears of happiness. Excellent!" It also features the name JOHN TRAVOLTA and the title PHENOMENON. At the bottom, there is a "NOW SHOWING" section with logos for ODEON, WEST END, KENSINGTON, SWISS COTTAGE, and AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, along with various phone numbers and showtimes.

Overview: August 24 - August 30

United States



The four-year-long soap opera that is the Clinton presidency took another unscripted twist this week just when Bill and Hillary (above) thought they finally had everything buttoned down. As four days of maudlin, saccharine, substance-free blather at the Democratic party's convention in Chicago drew to a close, the curse of the Clintons struck again. Dick Morris, the White House's campaign guru, suddenly resigned after the "yellow" press revealed that he'd been revealing all, in every sense, to a woman called Sherry, not his wife. Clinton accepted the party's nomination anyway, promising that "the best is yet to come". What can this mean?

North Atlantic

Eighty-four years after the supposedly unsinkable RMS Titanic sank with the loss of 1,523 lives, a large chunk of its steel hull was briefly raised from the ocean floor 420 miles off Newfoundland as American tourists paying up to \$8,000 each looked on. Then the cables snapped and it plunged back in to the depths. The recovery operation was abandoned until next year.

France

Just when President Jacques Chirac thought it was safe to take a holiday (one sneaked magazine photo showed him wearing shorts and pushing a pram in grandfatherly fashion), French union leaders were ganging up to warn of another autumn of industrial unrest. The main gripe is public sector spending cuts - but worries are also growing about EU single currency targets. Ever ready to join a fight, French farmers herded their cows into Paris and searched British lorries for illegal meat imports - their daffy way of trying to restore confidence in the BSE-bothered beef market. As Walter Mondale might have said, "where's the beef?"



Sweden

Delegates to the first World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, including Bond star Roger Moore (right), spent the week horrifying each other with ever more harrowing tales of perversion and abuse of minors. As a consciousness-raising exercise, the conference worked fine. But it was unclear whether any of the numerous proposals to protect children from, for example, Western sex tourists in the Philippines and Thailand would make a significant difference.



Russia

General Alexander Lebed, Moscow's answer to Rocky Marciano, had his granite jaw ever more tightly set as his attempts to bring peace to Chechnya were undermined by interethnic warfare in the Kremlin. Lebed's ceasefire deal took Russian and Chechen soldiers jointly patrolled the ravaged capital, Grozny. But back in Moscow, Boris Yeltsin - ill, under the influence, or sulking (no one knows which) - refused to talk to his pugnascent protégé. But yesterday, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin gave the plan a belated thumbs up.

India

Outgoing writers stand their fires as, after a much-mithered in Calcutta and the Vishva, Mother Teresa (right), the multi non-perennial, emerged victorious from a bout with malaria and heart trouble.



Israel

If Bill Clinton is accident-prone, then Israel's rightwing prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was simply prone after a week in which Palestinian frustration at his perceived foot-dragging on the peace talks and plans for new West Bank Jewish settlements finally boiled over into mass demonstrations. Britain and the EU blasted Netanyahu, warning that the whole peace process could be undermined. Washington has also taken a dim view of Bibi's provocations on peace while the Arab nation from Damascus to Cairo glowers and plays 'I told you so' games. But as usual, division and confusion within Palestinian ranks were the Israeli leader's strongest card.

Zimbabwe



David Livingston, legendary Victorian explorer (left), took a dive at the Victoria Falls when the Zimbabwean government (Robert Mugabe, prop.) ordered that a plaque on his statue there be removed. The explorer was described the itinerant Scot as a "boresnor". Presumptuous, one presumes.

Bosnia

Bosnia-Herzegovina, whose election was arranged under the Dayton peace accord are due on September 14, stumbled unsteadily towards its date with democratic destiny. But municipal polls on the same day were cancelled due to registration cheating by all sides. Nato is worried; the guys went out by Christmas.

Part of the problem may be, that you work for a proprietor who combines a former colonial boy's resentment against the mother country with some deeply personal, almost psychopathic anxieties about adultery. The Princess of Wales catches it on both scores. There is also the element of misogyny, never far from the surface in Britain, which delights in making a beautiful woman suffer. Auberon Waugh snaps at the snappers

The Week page 16

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Nokia advertisement for the NEW GSM MODEL 1610. Features include: Up to 100 hrs standby-time, Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time, 45 name/number memory stored on SIM, Fast recharge-55 mins, 5 selectable ring tones, Weight 250g. Includes a photograph of the Nokia 1610 mobile phone and a Casio color TV. Text: 'FREE COLOUR TV WORTH \$99.99 (RRP)'. 'LIMITED OFFER PHONE NOW'. 'GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.'

Cellphones advertisement for a limited offer. Text: 'LIMITED OFFER £4.99 INC. VAT'. 'The complete listening and viewing package from Cellphones Direct Order the outstanding Nokia 1610 digital mobile phone today, and once you've had it connected we'll send you this superb Casio 2.2 inch screen portable TV worth \$99.99 (RRP) entirely free of charge.' 'Simply call us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.' Includes a table with pricing: 'VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD', 'Monthly Rental £35.25 (£30 + VAT)', 'Monthly Rental £17.83 (£15 + VAT)', 'Peak Rate Call 95.25p per min (30p + VAT)', 'Off Peak Call 11.75p per min (10p + VAT)'. 'Cellphones Direct' logo.

Turkey beats a path to the Arab world

Private view

David Hirst

WHEN Turkey signed a military agreement with Israel in February, many Arabs saw in it evidence of a deep-seated historic grudge, rooted in 400 years of Ottoman rule and the Arab rebellion during the first world war which ended it. Syria, the country most threatened by the agreement, called it a monumental "political sin". Turkey was sacrificing "eternal" bonds with its Muslim Arab neighbours for the sake of a transient relationship with the Zionist foe. This month Turkey veered in the opposite direction. Necmettin Erbakan, the first Islamist prime minister of the militantly secular state which rose from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, chose militantly Islamist Iran for his first foreign visit. It was more than symbolic. It was a slap in Washington's face from one of its most strategically located allies. In clinching a \$3 billion deal for the supply of Iranian natural gas, Mr Erbakan mocked America's "containment" of Iran - its main foreign villain - and its latest "anti-terrorist" legislation to authorising sanctions against foreign companies which invest in Iran's or Libya's oil industry. In Tehran, he hinted at broader regional ambitions, proposing a four-nation summit of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria to discuss the Kurdish problem, which bedevils them all. His next visit could be to Syria. Only three months ago Syria felt itself to be the target of Turkish sabre-rattling and subversion; now its Grand Mufti has, on President Assad's behalf, formally invited Mr Erbakan to Damascus. Meanwhile Mr Erbakan's new justice minister, Sevkettin Kazan, has been to Iraq, where Saddam Hussein - another villain to the United States - urged him to follow an "independent" Turkish policy. Mr Kazan replied that it was "obvious that the UN doesn't treat some countries, especially Muslim ones, in a

just manner" and was "silent about Israel's excesses, but imposes harsh sanctions on Iraq". Turkey, he said, would strive to get them lifted. The Arabs have been quick to see this as the start of the most dramatic shift in Turkish foreign policy since the foundation of Ataturk's republic. For decades, wrote one columnist, Turkey had been divorced from its natural environment - the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East - as it performed a military role as Nato's eastern bulwark. It had stopped seeing itself as part of the Middle East or the Islamic world, and its neighbours had stopped seeing it as one of them. To the Arabs, the pact with Israel was final proof of how skewed Turkey's foreign priorities, if not its identity, had become. They believed a greater respect for Turkey for its Arab neighbours might have eased, if not solved, problems such as the Kurdish insurrection. The disruptive potential of Turkey's new direction is spelt out powerfully by Erbakan's spoken scathing of the European Union, and advocated Turkey's adhesion to an Islamic common market or Islamic Nato instead. He denounced the agreement with Israel, declaring: "When the Jews bomb our Muslim brothers [in south Lebanon], these people [Turkey's secular rulers] form an alliance with them and open Turkey to their plans." The question is how far Mr Erbakan can go without provoking a rebellion. Algiers-style, by the military guardians of the Ataturk tradition, which might be supported by the US. The Tehran visit was already something of a shock. But so far Mr Erbakan is treading carefully. This week he quietly accepted a

technical follow-up to the Israeli pact, and he has renewed the mandate for Provide Comfort, the Turkey-based Western aerial operation over northern Iraq, which he has revived in the past. Naturally, Middle East Islamists, gratified by this reinforcement of their ranks, want Turkey to go further. In Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei told Mr Erbakan he hoped that "in due course" he would ditch the Israeli connection altogether. Despite ideological misgivings, Arab secularists have, on the whole, welcomed the Turkish upheaval too, for much the same reason that even the Marxists among them once welcomed Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution. They saw the revolution as a colossal blow to a repugnant Middle Eastern order - and the ability of the US to preserve it - which the Arabs could turn to their advantage. They never did. On the contrary, in their pitiful obscurity, Arab governments more than ever incapable of serious collective opposition to US policies which even the most pro-American of them privately abhor. So any attempt by a non-Arab Muslim state to distance itself from the US and Israel, while making friendly overtures to the Arabs, is bound to be good news. Mr Erbakan, it is felt, might stir cringing Arab regimes to assert themselves, either by example or through the contribution of his regional initiatives. Significantly, Egypt was almost as appalled as Syria by the Turkish-Israeli agreement; and now Egypt, which is no friend of Iran's, is quietly content at Mr Erbakan's breach of US "containment". For Arab secularists, of course, it is US policies in the region that are the skewered ones; Turkey's have been largely derivative. Ironically, faced with Mr Erbakan, the Turkish secularists who uphold such policies have perhaps more in common with their Arab counterparts than they realise. His secular foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, welcomed the Iranian gas deal. And she would welcome even more the end of UN sanctions against Iraq, to which the US obsessively and unproductively clings at Turkey's economic expense.

Postscriptum

Great Danes act natural in zoo-time goldfish bowl

TO ENCOURAGE humans to think more about their ties to nature, Copenhagen zoo gained two new inmates this week - a homo sapiens couple in a plexiglass cage. Henrik Lehman and Malene Botoff were placed beside lions, baboons, and other full-time zoo inhabitants. "It's all about trying to act naturally with people staring at us," said Mr Lehman, an acrobat, aged 35. "People look at how we live - what books we read, what we cook, what records we play." Their 80 sq ft habitat has a furnished living room, kitchen and bedroom. But some of their activities they keep private. Rough justice A suspected Dutch mugger whose fingertip was bitten off by a print taken from the disconnected digit and arrested, Amsterdam police said this week. The suspect, aged 29, referred to the man who bit him as "the cannibal", the police said. Meanwhile, a Florida man faces 40 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of trying to steal 23 rolls of toilet paper. Henry Stegney, aged 32 and homeless, was convicted of petty theft, but may fall under a local law prescribing stiff sentences for repeat offenders. The Crazy One Ecuador's president, Abdula Bucaram, who campaigned as El Loco (the Crazy One), lived up to his nickname this week, according to reports from Quito. Less than three weeks after he took office, he made a gesture toward opposition congressmen that many considered obscene, saying: "I am going to give them the finger." During his campaign, he worried critics by taking off his belt and threatening to thrash the rich.



Spanish practices Thousands of people spent a day this week in the eastern Spanish village of Bunol getting each other with armfuls of tomatoes in the annual *tomatina*, the world's biggest tomato fight. The 56-year-old event, which leaves the streets ankle-deep in *purée*, attracts up to 20,000 people, and uses 100 tonnes of tomatoes. Meanwhile, 69 people were injured in a tug-of-war in Alcalá de Henares, east of Madrid. When the 60 competitors started pulling, the 455-yard rope snapped, burning hands and arms and causing some to faint. Last night Ethnic Thais in Burma have been urged to replace their portraits of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej with those of General Than Shwe, chairman of Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council, "to show patriotism", a Thai-based Burmese opposition group said this week. Till the music stops More than 50 African musicians and dancers who took part in an arts festival in Brazzaville, Congo, said this week that they could not return home because the festival organisers, including the Organisation of African Unity, had not paid them. They expected payment at the end of the Pan-African Music Festival, but the organisers kept the money, Patience Masseki of the Zaire ballet group Shama-Shama claimed. Compiled from agencies and correspondents' reports



Julian Strykowski

Glowing images cut from a Polish fog

JULIAN Strykowski, who has died aged 91, was the pre-eminent chronicler and poet in prose of the intense Jewish life of the Polish borderlands, especially of the eastern marches — now mostly absorbed into Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine — where so many of Poland's best writers have always come from. He wrote also, as many of his readers were surprised to learn near the end of his long life, from what would have been in the Poland of his time the borderlands of sexuality, producing at the age of 88, a novel, *Milczenie* (Silence), which, like Forster's posthumously published *Maurice*, openly proclaimed for the first time his homosexuality.

But then Strykowski, a Jew and for many years a committed communist, was always a problematic figure to his Polish contemporaries — too long and late a communist, and relatively late, too, in coming out as a critic of the regime. Two years ago, in an interview in *Gazeta Wyborcza* with his friend Adam Michnik after *Silence* had been published, he seemed to conclude that the long suppression of his sexuality had been morally damaging, making spiritual and political

freedom peculiarly difficult for him. Perhaps there has been a clue to some of this 30 years earlier in the sentence from Proverbs which he made the epigraph for one of his best novels: Can a man hide fire in his bosom, and his garments not burn?

He was born Pesach Stark. In Stry, not far from Drohobycz, the little town between the steppe and the Carpathians immortalised in the fantastic stories of Bruno Schulz. Now Ukrainian, both places then were part of Franz Josef's Austria-Hungary, whose rule bore down less heavily on Poles and Jews alike than the harsher German and Russian occupations during the long years of partition. "There's no Jew in existence who wouldn't wish him a long life and good health," says the Jewish cobbler of the Emperor, in Strykowski's novel *Austeria*. "... A pity he isn't a Jew. Then again maybe it's better that he isn't, he might not admit to being one. It's enough that he has a Jewish heart."

Like Isaac Deutscher, Strykowski may have been, as he claimed, a "non-Jewish Jew" so far as religious observance and belief went, but like Deutscher too he combined a Jewish heart and memory with a long commitment to

Marxist beliefs. He had joined the party after studying Polish literature at the University of Lvov and was among those imprisoned by the Polish government in 1935-36. Almost immediately afterwards, most of the communist leaders, summoned or lured to Moscow, were imprisoned in the Soviet camps or murdered.

'Each character grows freely like a tree, without any pressure from me. If I bent it, the tree would break'

In the great Stalinist purge. Strykowski, whose original belief in communism was deeply rooted in his experience of the harshness of Galicia's legendary poverty, did not formally leave the party until 1966, after the philosopher Leszek Kolakowski was expelled. For years, he had "muddled" with communism and lived with it "like a human" but in the 1930s, "as a jobless teacher and a Jew, I harboured great hopes of the Soviet Union".

He was able to test them at close quarters, after the Nazis took Lvov. In 1941, and with other communists, he retreated to Moscow where in the later years of the war he began the trilogy of novels of *szlachta* (smalltown) life before the Holocaust which will probably be his abiding memorial.

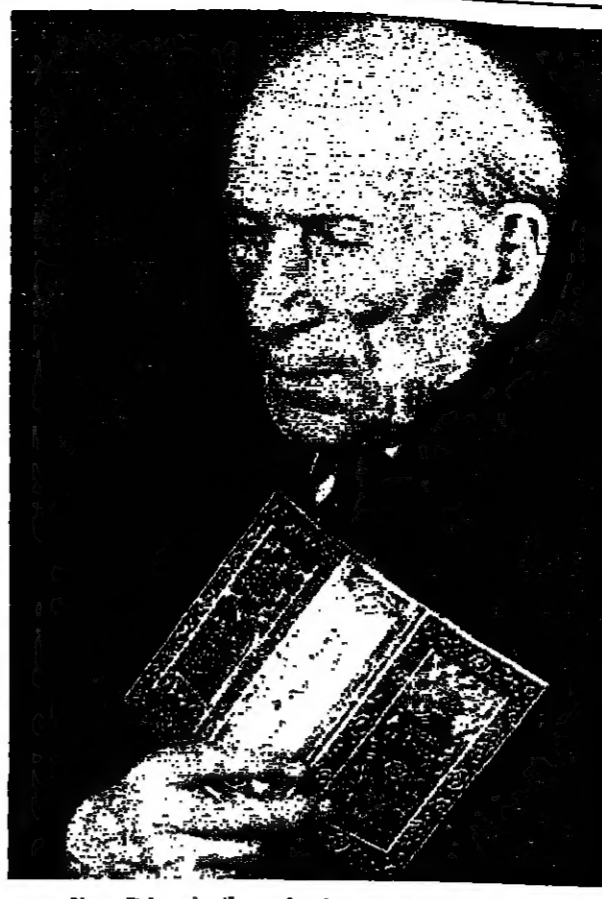
When he returned to devastated Warsaw in 1946 to work for the Polish News Agency, the process of disillusion had already begun which made faith unsustainable when it had to cope first with the execution of the Czechoslovak leader Rudolf Slansky, accused of Zionism, and then the revelations of Khrushchev's report on the realities of Stalinism to the Twentieth Party Congress.

Of his many novels, we have in English so far only *Austeria*, *The Inn*, the middle book of his trilogy of *szlachta* and borderland life, with its strange mixture of animosities and dependencies. It gives a fair sense of the quality if not the range of his gifts; there are others like *The Great Fear* and stories which deal with "my love affair with the Communist Party", and others still reflecting on Old Testament figures and episodes. *The Inn* also gives darkly

glowing pictures of that murdered Jewish world of the borderlands that elsewhere only survives to haunt us in a kind of tragic and anguished half-life in the photographs of Roman Vishniak and the pages of a few other writers of Strykowski's quality like Isaac Bashevis Singer and Aharon Appelfeld.

One gets some sense of the source of the liveliness of these pictures in an interview Strykowski gave in Warsaw shortly after the establishment of Poland's independence. No good asking for an explanation, or summation of his art, he said: "I am a spontaneous writer, I do not construct or plan ahead of time. Whenever I begin a new page I never know what will follow on the next one. The fog gradually thins down and the story starts unfolding. Each of my characters grows freely like a tree, without any pressure on my part. If I bent it, the tree would break. It often keeps growing against my will."

His gift is not like the unique personal fantasy through which his neighbour Schulz saw the people of Drohobycz, but he too knows, as Isaac Deutscher said of Chesterton, that the life of the Eastern Jewish communities was shot through with a kind of



Julian Strykowski, writer, born April 27, 1905; died August 8, 1996

Tewdwr Moss Man about the world

THE MURDER of Robert Tewdwr Moss at the age of 34 has robbed literary London of one of its most colourful characters. There was a time when no literary gathering seemed complete without this tall, strikingly handsome figure, who was probably the last man in England under 70 to look stylish in a cravat.

Born in Congleton, Cheshire, his education was unorthodox, part of it undertaken at the girls' boarding school where his mother was a teacher. He graduated with a first in English from Bedford College, London and found his true *métier* as a journalist, adding "Tewdwr" to his by-line and contributing to publications ranging from the *Tatler* to the *People*. One minute he would be interviewing the Bishop of Gibraltar for the *People*, the next he would be in conversation with Aristide Mauphin for *Harpers & Queen*.

Many of those he met on journalistic assignments became friends, and the large tea parties he gave would gather together a wide range of people of all ages and backgrounds. He was also extraordinarily well-informed and resourceful. If you wanted to know the best place to buy exotic flowers or where to find all-male tangos, Robert was the person to tell you, in his mocking upper-class drawl.

His extensive knowledge of the Middle East bore fruit in *Cleopatra's Wedding Present: Travels in Syria*, which he finished just before his death. He was an intrepid traveller, bringing back from distant lands hilarious and alarming anecdotes which seem as fresh in print as they did in conversation.

Robert's nature was as romantic as his appearance. Careless of his health, he was inclined to lose it to unlikely or unsuitable people, giving woefully comic accounts of his misadventures. He was never careless of his friends, and proved both imaginative and practical in his sympathy and support during their crises. He was devoted to his three cats and became involved in several animal welfare organisations. The impression he made on people was immediate and lasting, so that even those who had met him on a handful of occasions now feel that someone important has unaccountably vanished from their lives.

Peter Parker
Robert Louis Tewdwr Moss, journalist and travel writer, born December 23, 1961; died August 24, 1996

Letter

Bill Horner writes: I was intrigued by the obituary of zoot suit pioneer Harold C Fox (August 26). Training in 1943 with the RAF in Canada I witnessed, on cross-border visits, Detroit police dragging blacks off street cars — and many were not wearing zoot suits. Black Americans from the South working in Detroit factories were freer, more visible and had money. Anyone in a zoot suit became an easy target for white resentment. Back in 1947 London I purchased at Cecil Gee a "drape shape" jacket, with well padded shoulders and long lapels. The joke of the day was: "I like your jacket, pity you left the hanger in."

Weekend Birthdays

MP, 51; Barry Gibb, singer, 50; Rnd Gullit, footballer, 34; Allen Jones, pop artist, 58; Lord (Cecil) Parkinson, former Conservative minister, 85; Donald Piggott, former director-general, British Red Cross Society, 76; Lord Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 73.

Death Notices

KIRKPATRICK Patricia Anne, 66; Married, died on 27 August aged 66. Cherished wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. Will be a deeply felt loss to many and a devoted and dedicated teacher. Deeply mourned.

In Memoriam

HARRADINE David John, 1st September 1964, loved and missed every day.

Births

MUSGRAVE, On 16th August 1986 to Benjamin and Yvonne Payne at Chelsea and Westminster hospitals an adorable son, Ludovic Courtney Jago.

Marriages

HASLAMWEBSTER (née Goodman), 56th and 57th, are pleased to announce their wedding at St Agnes on Saturday 31st August at Bromley Methodist Church.

Anniversaries

STIRLING Ruby Widdow 19/10/87. Each gives pleasure - celebrating just makes sense. To place your announcement telephone 0171 733 467. Fax 0171 733 478.



'You fantasise your desires and paint them'... David Donaldson with his *Marriage Of Cain*. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WATT

David Donaldson Dominant dreamer of Glasgow art school

FOR more than half a century Glasgow School of art was his home, first as tentative student, and later, during the halcyon pre-bureaucracy days, as dominant Head of Painting. David Donaldson, who has died aged 80, was one of the most important figures in post-war Scottish art. His outrageous sense of humour, mercurial personality and volatile temper combined with a virtuoso talent made him into a brilliant if idiosyncratic teacher.

Donaldson lived and breathed a passion for paint. His own work was both expressive, painterly and direct. Instinct and imagination were paramount, and all his pictures convey a healthy sensuality. "You fantasise your desires and paint them," he once said. He loved painting beautiful women and did it superbly. "It's not difficult. You have to paint from beneath your navel. Perhaps it's the best compliment you can pay a woman."

His formal portraits were often less successful than his portraits of family and friends but he excelled in self-portraiture, where he either deliberately bared his portly body, (nude but for a strategically placed flower or comic parcel of fish and chips) — or, increasingly as time passed, he bared his soul, often showing a bleak, lonely face. This determined honesty coupled with an ability to poke fun at himself, was one of his most endearing qualities.

His rage to riches story, from Baptist foster child via Bohemian to Establishment figure with the title of Her Majesty's Painter and Limner

in Scotland, contributed to his robust, cantankerous attitude. He was, to the end, a man whose chip on his shoulder was about the same size as his heart.

Despite his unconventional family background, his grandfather paid his fees when, at 15, he got to art school. There the school's director took Donaldson under his wing. By the third year he was painting portraits for £20. In 1936 he won the Director's prize and in 1937 a £50 travel scholarship, allowing him to

He either bared his body, (nude but for a strategically placed flower or parcel of fish and chips), or he bared his soul

go abroad for the first time. He went to the Uffizi in Florence. It was a journey the 20-year-old never forgot, and was, he maintained, his key experience as a painter.

Donaldson's training in the 1930s was essentially academic. As his early works show, he was clearly a very talented student. His heroes were and remained the great European masters: Goya, Rembrandt, Michelangelo and Velazquez. Cubism and abstraction meant nothing to him. His subject matter was essentially traditional: still life, landscape, allegorical compositions, and of course the portraiture which made him famous. Ironically these

portraits began as a discipline: an alternative "talking still life". People provided a subject and a solution to loneliness. "Portraiture filled my day with a person."

Donaldson's Baptist upbringing and the bible stories he read as a child, charged his imagination. He took audacious liberties with fragments of Genesis or David's Seduction of Bathsheba; he updated Suzanne into a dark-haired little raver and Lot into a gant covering in the greenhouse now fest with someone important. He even painted Jesus Walking on Loch Lomond. Many regard these religious allegories as among his most memorable pictures.

Despite many honours his aim was still "to paint with a Scottish accent". His 1984 retrospective exhibition toured from Glasgow to London.

Latterly Donaldson's diabetes restricted his work. However his 80th birthday was celebrated with a major exhibition in both Edinburgh and Glasgow, at Glasgow School of Art. In the book accompanying the show he speaks for himself in colourful style, full of wise words laced with wit and scurrilous repartee.

Donaldson married twice. He had a son, David, by his first wife, Kate Maxwell, and two daughters, Sally and Caroline by his widow, Marysia, whom he married in 1948; plus four grandchildren. He painted all of them frequently, latterly in their house in the South of France.

Clare Henry
David Donaldson, portrait painter, born June 28, 1916; died August 22, 1996

Face to Faith For a priest it must never be safety first

Keri Leech

IN HIS book *A Theology of Auschwitz*, Ulrich Simon says that priesthood is "the office which ritually, inwardly and sceptically shares the dying and rising of Christ." In the context of the concentration camp, when the priest is without status and function, without bread and wine, the sacrificial heart of priesthood is laid bare, its essential character exposed.

The priestly ideal used and converts the world of Auschwitz. Here the priest's sacerdotal dedication encounters the vacuum with self-sacrifice. The priest at the camp counts because he has no desires of self-importance and gives life beyond extermination. Strange words in an era of managerial and professional models of ministry, but they speak more to me as a priest than the material coming from church bureaucracies. It

was troublingly symbolic that it was on August 14 — the feast of St Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest who gave his life at Auschwitz to save another prisoner — that we learned of the murder of young priest Christopher Gray in Liverpool.

Anything one says in the aftermath of such an appalling death can seem trite and insensitive. But I am desperately concerned that the Church does not respond in the wrong way, by panicking into looking for safety and avoiding risk. I do not believe that is what Christopher Gray would want. Indeed, in his only published work, a collection of essays written with other priests, he wrote about the meaning of priesthood: "the supreme act of the shepherd is to lay down his life for the sheep" and spoke of priests called to "grow to be like Christ in their faithful service of their flocks even to the point of sacrificing their own lives".

Now that a little time has

passed since Gray's death, we need to focus on what his example and inspiration teaches us. Yes, it is really important that priests, and other pastoral workers in vulnerable situations are given proper support, and this sadly often does not happen. But at the end of the day, we cannot completely prevent attacks, including fatal ones. The worst response would be to withdraw and make the clergy more remote from people and from danger.

Recently I rang a central London church and was given information (on a recorded message) about concerts, but nothing about pastoral care. I rang another parish and was told, on a Thursday, that the priest would not be available until Monday and his home number was unavailable. I almost said that I was dying and needed the last rites, but assumed I would be told to delay the process. Worries about security often seem to take precedence over pastoral and spiritual need.

I am appalled at the way in which many priests and ministers are buying into secular (often outdated) managerial models and are becoming increasingly difficult to contact (or should we now say "access") after 5pm. The concept of "professional ministry" has spread along with a fear of intimacy (to some extent due to the surfacing of sexual misconduct), and a concern with "boundaries" which has in some places brought any pastoral ministry of a more than superficial kind to an end. More pastors now hide behind

Ansafaxes or secretaries, and increasingly live apart from their work in places known only to friends.

HAVE hardly ever ministered in an area that could be called "safe". My pastoral ministry since 1964 has been in Hoxton, Soho, Bethnal Green, Notting Hill, and now Aldgate and Whitechapel. I have, apart from a few years, always lived "on the job". I am not likely to trivialise the problems. Many parish clergy are exposed in a way that social workers and other "professionals" whose home addresses remain "secret" are not. Vicarages and clergy houses, on the other hand, are public buildings. Calls at Sam are not uncommon. It would be irresponsible and cruel to ignore this history, and it is not surprising that the

Church should want to respond to it.

A recent well-intentioned report from the Church of England in London, *Knocking at Heaven's Door*, contains some appallingly bad advice. "Do not engage with callers on the doorstep." "Do not invite the caller inside." "Do not undertake a pastoral relationship". All this flies in the face of my own pastoral experience. There may well be people whom one should not invite inside, and the doorstep is not always the best place for pastoral encounters. But to give such blanket advice is irresponsible and ignores the fact that pastoral ministry occurs in odd places and at odd hours. Had I taken the advice in this report, much of my pastoral work would never have occurred.

Perhaps the real clue to this report lies in the words on the opening page which tell us it was paid for by Ecclesiastical Insurance. When pastoral theology is determined, not by the gospel, but by the Church Insurance company, we are in deep trouble. The Church dies, as the catholic anarchist Dorothy Day said, when security takes the place of the life and death of ordinary people. I am sure Christopher Gray would agree.

Keri Leech is an Anglican priest and community theologian at St Botolph's, Aldgate, London.



If actors are laboratory prototypes for contemporary human behaviour, then Richard Gere (47 today) is still in the experimental stage. The Gere looks great with that white frosting atop the teeth, the supervivyl skin. But they haven't yet perfected the manner. Transmission problems. The Gere's humanitarian rather than the real thing. The Buddhist prayer beads on one wrist and the Rolex on the other. The trip to Tibet, with the tabloids of the nations blaring the Gere disappearance, while it's wobbling round Lhasa on a hired bicycle and mingling with nuns in the Holiday Inn's coffee shop, The Hard Yak Cafe. The full-page all-copy ad in the Times — the paper even a humanoid would have heard of — to proclaim the durability and steadfastness of the

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In pole position for the prize

But what if Clinton lets it slip?

BILL CLINTON gave the commentators a hard time at the Democratic convention with an acceptance speech which proclaimed an age of hope but opened no new doors. It was all the harder because the only real news had come a few hours earlier, throwing an unwanted light on a much less salubrious part of the premises. It was difficult yesterday to decide which description of Mr Clinton following his performance was the least exciting. Was he perhaps a "forward-looking centrist" — or else an "out-sized optimist with small-scale proposals" — or simply a "man of moderation"?

On the evidence of this speech — and it is the evidence which the Democratic camp offers as proof of Mr Clinton's vision for the future — we already know the answer to the great big question about Mr Clinton's second term. Will he seize the opportunity, freed from the prospect of a further contest, to recapture the radical mood of 1992 and seek to do what was left undone before? Or will he continue to position himself (as advised by the lately departed "guru" Dick Morris) at the apex of the triangle formed by the Republicans and his own Democratic Party, claiming a position of detachment from "partisan" politics? Between these two possibilities there was never really any contest given the inherent ambiguities of Mr Clinton's new democratic position in his first term, there was no prospect of sharper clarity ahead. His appeal to the American voter relies heavily on the consensus argument that, as he put it in his speech, "on issues that once tore us apart, we have changed the old politics of Washington." In spite of a good deal of advance hype, his speech took care not to frighten off anyone by including too many new thoughts. Most of it was a recapitulation of the mixed bag of executive and legislative action which he has been promoting in recent months. The only two new ideas were judiciously balanced: a new capital-gains tax break for homeowners and tax incentives for businesses that create jobs to employ welfare recipients.

Positioning himself in the centre (though as the spectrum shifts this now occupies a position which formerly would have been regarded as well to the right of centre) Mr Clinton has adopted what may be an appropriate tactic corresponding with his own temperament. Rising above party politics strikes a chord with many Americans who feel that politics has sunk beneath them. In doing so Mr Clinton denies the middle ground to a Republican Party which knows it needs to occupy it but is under constant pressure from its own rightwing not to do so. With the polls narrowing, though still in his favour, he is aiming for the swing vote. It is a tactic which will be instantly recognisable to anyone remotely connected with Tony Blair and his campaign. Yet it runs into the same difficulty, though in more muted form this week, of placing the loyalty and commitment of his own party under strain.

Mr Clinton was greeted with genuine rapture when his whistle-stop tour finally brought him to Chicago. Unlike the experience of many predecessors, his second half has been distinctly better than the first. He has hailed the Democrats a long way out of the abyss into which they fell at the mid-term elections — in large part by stealing Republican clothes on a balanced budget, welfare and crime. He has also been helped by the ineptitude of the Gingrich tendency, and by recent foreign policy successes. Yet Mr Clinton's own party follows him with the head more than with the heart. The audience was noticeably silent when he proclaimed his intention to "balance the budget", only bursting into applause when he added that this should not be done at the expense of Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment. It was also significant that Mr Clinton's benefit-sharing welfare reform bill, which he signed only a week ago, hailing it as a great achievement, was barely mentioned on the convention floor. None of this will matter tremendously in the next couple of months: the prize is too great for dissent. But if it were to slip from Mr Clinton's grasp — perhaps because the "behaviour" factor refuses to go away — then the inquest would be devastating.

The crowning insult?

A relic best left alone

EVEN AS they warm their hands over what they profoundly hope is a rekindled feelgood factor, Conservative politicians are constantly aware of brushfires breaking out around the territory. However Michael Howard emerges in the prison controversy there will be damage to his government in this conflagration. And even where no blame attaches, events conspire against them. As in the south of Scotland, where archaeologists working at Melrose Abbey believe they may have dug up the heart of Robert the Bruce.

This is at a time when Scotland is still under the spell of Braveheart, Mel Gibson's account of its great national hero Wallace. Bruce, in a sense, carried on where Wallace left off. Wallace was sentenced, hanged, drawn, beheaded and quartered in London in 1305. Between 1307 and 1313, Robert drove the English back until only Stirling and Berwick were left to them. In 1314, marshalling a force of 30,000 men against a reputed 100,000 under the rather less warlike Edward II, he finished them off at Bannockburn, opening the way to Scots independence.

Strewed politicians, especially before elections, tend to take such things seriously. The SNP embraced Braveheart as a kind of recruiting sergeant for nationalism. And though at one time one might have expected the Scottish secretary Michael Forsyth to ridicule it, in fact he not only praised it, but attended the premiere wearing a kilt. Some even ascribed John Major's decision to return the Stone of Scone to Scotland to the Braveheart factor. If the Melrose archaeologists' hopes are justified, and the casket they have recovered does indeed turn out to contain the heart of this still more formidable warrior, Mr Major had better have something even more substantial concealed up his sleeve. But even the finding in Burnham-on-Crouch next week of some comparable relic connected with Richard the Lionheart would hardly carry the same political kick. Perhaps chairman Brian Mawhinney's best hope for whipping up excitement and pride in a line of English heroes lies in Liam Neeson's triumphant debut for Hampshire this week. But unhappily for Dr Mawhinney, the season is almost over.

Letters to the Editor

Gay lifestyle with no content

IT IS a relief to me that an increasing number of gay commentators, including Peter Tatchell (Casting In, coming out August 29), find the political apathy and shallow hedonism that is encouraged by some aspects of today's gay "scene" a source of worry. Many gay people, seemingly immersed in a "party" lifestyle, are effectively helping to perpetuate anti-gay discrimination by their complacency. John Major's recent attack on the National Lottery Charities Board illustrated that his party remains willing to exploit homophobia. Meanwhile, the Labour Party has ditched from The Road To The Manifesto the new clear commitment to gay law reform that it held at the last general election.

It is likely that today's one-dimensional, solely hedonistic "gay lifestyle" appeals to only a fraction of gays and lesbians. Even so, several of the Free Press weeklies (whose main advertising revenue comes from clubs, phonelines and soft porn videos) continue to create a hegemony that if you're gay and under 35, this is the "lifestyle" that you should opt for. The time has come for a widespread realisation that al-

though some gay businesses are beneficial to the community, many others are motivated solely by profit. John Jackson, Natal Road, London SW16.

PETER Tatchell castigates the gay community for their cynicism over our failure to gain an equal age of consent and other civil rights but he is wrong to blame the commercialisation of the pink pound. Openly gay businesses are increasing in numbers and in the range of services they offer, and part of this success story is the economic power it provides our community. If we cannot gain equality through moral argument, then we must use all the resources at our disposal to make our point, and that includes selecting where we are going to spend our disposable income. Stephen Coore, Eurolink Business Centre, Etra Road, London SW2.

THE saddest thing about Peter Tatchell's welcome weekly newspaper for lesbians and gay men, has changed from being a radical publica-

tion — like the old Gay News and Capital Gay. Most of it is now given over to entertainment rather than reporting. By and large we love it — they tell us how to improve our looks, how to stay young, where to drink and where to shop. Most importantly, the post-political gay community is told how to look and act straight. At last, we can buy our way into normality. All we ever wanted was to be liked, and those camp queens or angry militants always rubbed people up the wrong way. Killing them off and shutting them up means the nice guys at Stonewall and The Pink Paper can write and dine with style, and the rest of us can go down the gym or get our hair done. Ian Lucas, Bankside Close, Coventry, CV3.

COMMERCIALISM and consumerism are indeed superseding concern about civil rights in the gay community. The editorial policy of The Pink Paper, only a national weekly newspaper for lesbians and gay men, has changed from being a radical publica-

tion — like the old Gay News and Capital Gay. Most of it is now given over to entertainment rather than reporting. By and large we love it — they tell us how to improve our looks, how to stay young, where to drink and where to shop. Most importantly, the post-political gay community is told how to look and act straight. At last, we can buy our way into normality. All we ever wanted was to be liked, and those camp queens or angry militants always rubbed people up the wrong way. Killing them off and shutting them up means the nice guys at Stonewall and The Pink Paper can write and dine with style, and the rest of us can go down the gym or get our hair done. Ian Lucas, Bankside Close, Coventry, CV3.

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Only youthful horizons

CHARLES Hendry (Mad about the boys and girls, August 27) has tried the old "young people have never had it so good" routine before, to sixth-formers in his High Peak constituency. Here in High Peak, one in four of those officially unemployed is under 25 years old. Our county's schools receive amongst the lowest funding per child from this government. The local FE college was forced into making long-term cuts and teacher redundancies — all at a time when opportunities for our young people should be expanding. Those who do find jobs — like the Glossop school-leaver offered full-time work paying £1 an hour, or the young graduate who quit his job as a van driver because the vehicle was a death trap — are entitled to expect better.

Mr Hendry is still in his thirties, and about to become a father for the first time, so it is not surprising that he sees the world through desperately optimistic eyes. However, he will not see this romantic vision become a reality as long as his party is in government. Tom Levitt, 42 Bath Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6HL.

CHARLES Hendry MP is right to be proud of Britain's youth and its opportunities. The TUC and the Labour Party have to explain how a minimum wage would help younger workers. The reality is that it wouldn't, as any economics A-level student could tell you. A minimum

wage would push up wage costs and reduce employment opportunities. Michael Hall, 25 Stubbs House, London SW1P 4DY.

HENDRY is refreshingly optimistic. I have just graduated from university. I spent my gap year teaching in China. I have also visited the former Soviet states of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh on a human-rights mission. These are opportunities that no previous generation of 18- to 22-year-olds ever had. Ben Rogers, St Edward's Chantry, Blomport, Dorset SP7 6BA.

CHARLES Hendry claims that we can't afford a minimum wage while simultaneously suggesting that young people in part-time or temporary work earn such massive wages that they can't earn enough to enjoy their social life. Maybe if they live with their parents. But how can someone on £2.50 to £3 per hour or less earn enough for rent, food, and to have a social life? There may be record numbers of young people entering higher education, but at the end they face an uncertain future, saddled with debt. According to him "the leisure menu has never been more appetising". The truth is that millions of young people can only stand outside the restaurant and drool. Jean Baker, The Broadway, Balby, Doncaster DN4.

Channel 4's hurrah for the eighties

MAGGIE Brown accuses me of "sounding like an eighties man" for not recognising Channel 4 as using a "restored (sic) range of the broadcasting spectrum without paying a price for the privilege" (Fear and Grouching at the BBC, 23 August 20). Whose privilege? Unlike the ITV companies, Channel 4 uses its income for programmes, not to make profits. ITV properly pays for the right to make money. Taxing Channel 4 for the use of spectrum would be the same as taxing the BBC. Licence Fee: the price would

he paid directly by the viewer. Channel 4 delivers public service television with the public money that is used to fund it. That was the result of the 1981 Broadcasting Act, an act that has stood the test of time. Michael Grade, Chief Executive, Channel 4 Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TN.

We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Crude in the campaigning

CHRIS Davies (Letters, August 30) expects an apology from Peter Mandelson for the Labour Party's campaign in last year's Littleborough & Saddleworth by-election. I would point out that the rest of the country was enlightened during the election by seeing, possibly for the first time, the local campaigning style of the Liberal Democrats. Both there and in Rochdale, in national and local elections, the campaigns are offensive, misleading and an insult to the electorate. If any apology is to be expected it should be from Chris Davies and the Liberal Democrats. Susan Ayres, 46 Elmsfield Avenue, Rochdale OL11 5XN.

OVER the years, Austin Mitchell has not infrequently brought a touch of humour to politics (Style debate here, says Blair, August 30). Indeed, Austin's approach to politics has changed but little since student days. In Labour Party terms, his New Statesman article has no direct importance. As a weekly it has long since ceased to have any political relevance; probably most party members are unaware that it still exists.

The Guardian's decision to compare Tony Blair with Kim Il Sung would appear to be both puerile and insulting. The concept of internal party democracy is always slightly elusive. If Labour MPs have a greater say in party policy, then party members will have a lesser say. If the views of 300 members are the sole determinant of policy, then the much larger number of Labour voters will have no say, except that they may withhold their support at general elections. Perhaps Blair has got the balance right.

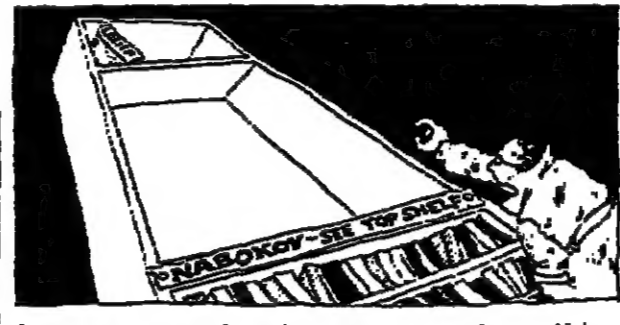
(Prof) Stanley Henig, Univ. of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE.

NEVER mind Austin Mitchell. Tony Blair is doing huge damage to New Labour by associating with Vera Duckworth, widow of the north's leading pigeon-fanciers and landlady of the Rovets Return (aka the Old Labour Arms). Our Tony might at least have been pictured shaking hands with Mike Baldwin. Eric O'Brien, 145a Stokes Newington, High Street, London N16.

Tales of love and censorship

LOLITA, the novel, the film by Kubrick or the remake by Schiff is not about "love". Your libertarian attitude (For Love of Lolita, August 28) fails to take into account the power relations between the male adult and the female child. Sexual consent must be freely given on the basis of knowledge, understanding and equality of relationship. I cannot conceive of a situation where children and adolescents could have such understanding. Male sexuality is celebrated as uncontrollable in Lolita and it is this particular aspect of masculinity that enables men to sexually abuse children. Cheryl Stafford, St John Way, London N15.

THE great thing about novels is that they reveal what it would be like to be somebody



else. But who says this has to be comfortable? To object to Lolita or to Lynn's film version of it, on the grounds that its subject is a paedophile is like objecting to Rembrandt's Flayed Ox because one shrinks from the thought of the slaughterhouse. It is a paedophile, not a paedophile that kind which underlies the demand for censorship. As the gorge rises, so does a conviction that not merely oneself but all readers should be protected from the text. If the book happens to be skilled and intelligent so much the worse, for these qualities

make it more seductive. Nabokov's book continues to disturb after 46 years of shelf-life because it has a powerful grasp of human reality. The reader knows what it is like to be Humbert; Humbert and slips back with a gasp from sharing his identity. Is this bad? I don't think so. I'm not a paedophile, just a granny and writer for kids — but those who shout for suppression scare me far more than Nabokov's terrible understanding. Alison Prince, Burnford Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran KA27 9QL.

No knife-point diplomacy

THIS morning while I was recovering from being overwhelmed by emotion, having just become a dad for the second time I bought The Guardian to relax. I was amazed, however, when I came to the article (Women detained after hijack released, August 29) on the hijacking of a Tanzanian airline in 1982 at Stanstead Airport. The impression was given that the hijacking was undertaken "using an imitation gun and candles, tricks made to look like dynamite". This was not so! One of my sisters was the only stewardess on board the Boeing 737. She received a small cut to the abdomen, dodging an attempted stabbing by one man. She also survived a knife held to her throat when one hijacker recognised her as the Irish hijacker, another sister of mine.

The fact that the co-pilot was shot in the back proves that the gun was no imitation. A K Khan, Old Kenton Lane, London NW9 9ND.

YOUR leader (The politics of hijacking, August 29) rightly made a case against granting political asylum to the Irish hijacker, however, you could have pointed out that the Iraqis today are de-

perate people, tormented both by Saddam Hussein and the West. In its determination to topple Saddam, the West spear-headed the UN sanctions against Iraq, hoping that the resultant economic hardship would de-legitimise his regime and precipitate its collapse. Saddam may have been weakened by the trade sanctions, but the real victims of this collective punishment have been the people of Iraq. Six years of crippling sanctions have caused widespread malnutrition and destroyed the social welfare system.

The United Nations appears to be legitimising human suffering in Iraq at the behest of the West. Randeep Singh Bains, 34 Shere Road, Gants Hill, Gants Hill, West Sussex BN5.

THE suggestion that the Sudan fight terrorists should be tried in Britain must be rejected. In no circumstances should the threat of terrorism be rewarded by treatment more favourable than for those who seek asylum by lawful and peaceful means. F Whitehead, Brim Dale, Henfield, West Sussex BN5.

Cutting bread

YOUR leading articles (A monarchy in trouble, August 20 and A monarchy in trouble — part two) border more on wishful thinking than reality. It would seem that if the British monarchy proposal changes, it is in trouble. If the Haslemere monarchy take action, it is also in trouble. If neither takes any action, then they are in even deeper trouble. The cost price of bread in Jordan is an issue which should have been tackled long ago. Doxar countries would not have given one billion dollars to Jordan had we not acted to eliminate the budget deficit, arising mostly from the bread subsidy.

Your leader mentions uneven economic growth in Jordan. However, having to cope with huge population increases over 45 years as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the second Gulf war, sometimes makes planning a joke. You refer to the "light-footed diplomacy" of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel. This was concluded because it had our strategic outlook and followed in the footsteps of Egypt and the PLO. Jordanians realise that economic improvement can only occur if there is peace. Bassam J Asfour, Director, Jordan Information Bureau, 11/12 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

Lights, camera, anaesthetic, incision



Mark Lawson

IN A recent poll, American television viewers were asked which fictional television doctor they would most like to remove their appendix. They chose Dr Mark Lawson of ER. The actor who pretends to be him, Anthony Edwards, spoke rather sniffily about people not understanding the difference between medicine and showbiz. The same charge has been widely made against the video Everyday Operations, which features choice cuts from National Health Service surgery. The makers call it educational; the Government calls it sick and exploitative and took out an injunction. But this seems to me a misdiagnosis. The collision between medicine and showbiz is one of the central trends of our time and Everyday Operations is merely its most noteworthy

manifestation. The junior health minister, Gerry Malone, was granted his injunction because of worries about permissions — a fear that the patients may have been, as it were, stitched up — but it is clear from his comments that Mr Malone also has objections in principle. For him — and for pundits who have taken the same line — there are two primary objections: that operations have no place as entertainment and that doctors, who were reportedly paid by the video-makers, should not be involved in commercial exploitation. How can these people make either case with a straight face? Where have they been for the last 15 years?

Body-carving as drama has become one of television's most popular genres. Some opponents of the National Health splatter video complain that hospital fact is being marketed as medical soap opera — turning casualty into Casualty for a paying public. The willingness of doctors to participate in such a video should also cause little surprise. The quick and the ham have long overlapped. Early surgery was usually performed to an audience of physicians and interested bystanders, for a combination of education and novelty, such

that English medical jargon still calls the place where operations take place a "theatre". Equally, it has always been part of the normal process of medicine that the patients die while the doctors became immortal, at least in name. Parkinson, Huntington, Alzheimer, Creutzfeldt and Jakob have become as familiar to the sick and the hypochondriac as their local railway stations.

But medical celebrity of that kind requires long years in the laboratory. In modern times, society has created a fast stream for the doc who wants to be hot: television and the press. Professor Robert Winston's efforts as impregnator to the nation earned him a peerage but also, quite as significantly, that other contemporary medal of validation, a peak-time TV series, Making Babies, which gave a new twist to the expression about

family entertainment. Dr Hilary Jones and Dr Mark Forster went, courtesy of television and newspapers, from being low-paid GPs to high-earning media celebrities. The concept of the celebrity doctor is so far advanced that in this summer's fertility publicities — the mother who aborted one twin, the woman carrying eight implanted embryos — the presiding physician has stepped effluently into the limelight. The doctor to the putative octuplets even posed for newspaper photographs with the expectant couple, in a ghostly contemporary refinement of the family portrait which brought to mind an illustration in a book on trollsism. So is it any wonder that the country's surgeons proved so keen to show the public a little of the man behind the mask?

And any worries that the Government may have about private financial transactions with the surgeons featured on the tape seem particularly hypocritical. It is reportedly common in Tory-encouraged private medicine for the patient to be offered a video of the procedure for a small fee. For doctors to sell the video rights in their patients to an outside company seems well in line with the market reforms imposed on the NHS.

The reaction of the junior health minister and many commentators has been that this surgical nasty represents a rare aberration of taste, which must be checked if the video shock are not soon to stock Amazing Autopsies, starring John F Kennedy, Robert Maxwell and the victims of TWA flight 800.

Everyday Operations, though, is a logical result of the everyday operation of government and culture. An administration which has spent years urging doctors to become money-conscious and cost-efficient tends to court to take out an injunction against a product which results largely from hospitals and doctors heeding such bottom-line advice. The BBC — whose news programmes reacted with malaise horror to the prospect of the video — tonight begins a season of programmes celebrating the 50th anniversary of the NHS, featuring replays of some of the best-loved televised incisions and suction from its own vast operation archive. A fertility doctor faced next week with a mum who wants to pick-and-mix among her triplets or take a punt at a record 10 live births knows that he has guaranteed his place in the media sun. Surgery has no place as showbiz. Cut it out.

COLIN LUCKHURST

سكنا من الديل

The see-through reality of sanctions

Commentary
Martin Woollacott

WHEN Louis Farrakhan travelled to Libya to accept the interestingly named Muammar Gaddafi Human Rights Award, he and the Libyan leader knew they would be holding up a cheery mirror to the moralising foreign policy which Bill Clinton has made his own.

Serbia. With America's recent efforts to punish foreign firms for dealing with countries on the US enemies' list, sanctions have been, in theory, extended to its closest allies. Sanctions were central to the arguments over South Africa and Israel in earlier years. But the idea of a new, more systematic, less disputed conditionality, of shaping trade and other relations so as to bring about changes for the better in misgoverned states, received a powerful impetus after the Gulf war. It seemed to offer a general moral basis for foreign policy, and a tariff for misbehaviour that would deter governments from bad behaviour everywhere.

But the reasonable idea that conditions could be more consistently imposed by groups of states to induce changes in the behaviour of other states has only intermittently worked in practice. It is, in the first place, very ambitious. But, in addition, it is always in danger of sliding away into playing to domestic audiences or, internationally, into disputes between those who want serious sanctions and those who advocate "constructive engagement" or "critical dialogue". These arguments often barely conceal the trade inter-

ests of different industrial powers, or the cultural prejudices of different civilisations. The games that can be played under cover of such phrases are almost endless. The foreign policies of democratic states, beyond the basic requirement of ensuring physical security, are now based firmly on two pillars — trade advantage and human rights. The contradictions are obvious. The result is a crisis of conditionality, for which we badly need a new charter.

The truth is that neither the American stick nor the European carrot, separately wielded, has worked

mean more business for them, which, under the convenient cover of "critical dialogue", they will represent as leading to social changes which will have favourable political consequences.

ture, when, after years of carefully avoiding Chinese human rights issues in the interests of trade, Bonn was punished by Beijing because the German parliament had the temerity to pass a resolution condemning Chinese actions in Tibet. China understands well enough how to use its economic weight to put the wind up Western moralisers, and it is in China that the contradictions between human rights and economic interests can be seen at their fullest.

called a "fondness for hurling just such semantic challenges at their foreign counterparts, their placing themselves in a graceful posture before domestic American public opinion." Helms-Burton and D'Amato-Kennedy, in this reading, are but the latest instalments in a long story of American self-dramatisation.

Let's party, people



Martin Kettle

AN American election rarely fails to turn British political heads. Time has done little to remedy this old-fashioned but still relevant and lively 1996 Clinton-Dole contest is no exception to the rule.

to matter. Looking at the American conventions this month, what predictions we make about the antics which we will shortly see at Brighton, Blackpool and Bournemouth? First, the British party conferences will continue their transformation into manipulated rallies to the exclusion of all other functions, especially debate and argument about the party programme.

The A to Z street atlas changed the way we perceive the urban landscape. Jan Morris celebrates the genius, ambience and beauty of the city-lover's bible, whose inventor died earlier this week

Map of a city's heart

TO BE honest I had never heard of Phyllis Pearsall before I read of her death earlier this week, but when I learnt who she was I thought I heard a lamentation in the streets of London. Like the mourning of the Greeks when the great god Pan died. She was the lady who invented the A to Z street atlas, not only the maker of every taxi driver, but a second bible to all those of us who love to walk the streets of London. She was part of my very life, and I had never even known her name!



Was it really only in 1996 that the first brought out the A to Z, in its familiar covers of red, white and blue, its maps rather smudged black-and-white in those early days, its paper coarse and grey? It feels to me as though the book has been with us always, and nowadays when I wander the world I see its cousins, clones or copies everywhere, sometimes red, white and blue themselves, and giving me, wherever I see them, an instant frisson of nostalgia for the old city of their origins.

Some cities of course cannot live up to the magic of the A to Z. The grid-cities of the New World deserve no Pearsall. The uncountable frenzy of a Calcutta or a Tokyo is altogether alien to the spirit of her work. The true A to Z cities are rational but eccentric, jumbled but explicable, ancient, battered, cynical, sentimental and a bit sad, and of these the epic and epitomes is London. Mrs Pearsall was part Hungarian, part Irish, part Italian and part Jewish, but she seems from her obituaries to have been your quintessential Londoner, businesswoman and artist too, loyal and unpredictable at the same time; and the London A to Z is both her memorial and her tribute to the flower of cities all, where to be bored is to be dead.

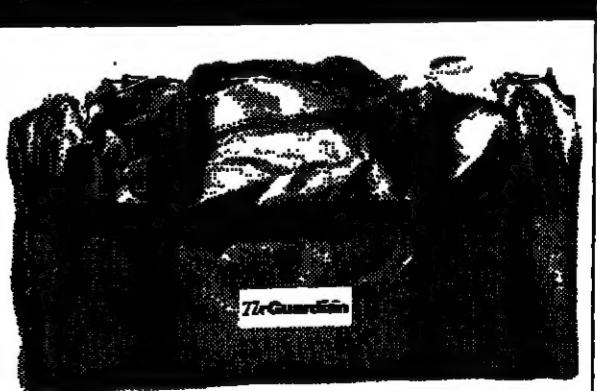
Out I step early on a London morning, out from the porch of dear old Durrants Hotel, which has been my London headquarters ever since I read that the blind writer Vyd Mehta liked its ambience — out into the mist of George Street, the cab-driver waiting at the kerb looking up expectantly as I appear, hoping I am an American wanting to go to the airport — down the road into Marylebone High Street, where the corner florist is unloading her chrysanthemums from her van, the Filipino ladies of the supermarket are already at their tills, and the veiled suggestion of Regents Park at the far end reminds me of those old Hollywood films in which London was permanently shrouded in fog and dark suggestion. This is true A to Z country.

Of course like every capital London has its grand points of reference, the kind of mnemonics you can pick up on a morning ride in a tour bus — St Paul's and the Abbey, Hyde Park Corner and the Tower of London, the awful clutter of Oxford Street, the pomp of the Mall. You need never get lost in inner London — somewhere close by is one of those unmissable homing beacons. If you cannot make out the gleam of the river at the end

ground, and the strange small down there — the expressionless gaze of the Londoner, the sudden thrilling recognition of landmarks that you have known in imagination all your life, and that now seem somehow preternaturally real — the red-and-greyness of everything, and the jumping on and off of buses, and the flags, and the intricacy. Especially the intricacy. What happy baffled hours the provincial aficionado can spend pottering around the complex back-streets of London, now and then emerging from mews or graveyard into one of the grand set-pieces of the European consciousness. Foster wrote in his Guide To Alexandria that the best way to see that city was to "wander aimlessly around it". I myself have always obeyed the Psalmist's instructions: "Grin like a dog and run about the city". But every aimless wandering, every grinning run is complicated and enhanced by the A to Z. In its maps the intricacy of London is not diminished, only heightened by the web-like mass of its cartography, streets so small that you can hardly see them, names that have to be extended into neighbouring alleys, to make room for them, or are abbreviated into a Fl, a Cr or a Cl.

The names themselves, to someone like me, are an index of enthrallment. Some great cities have street names like Front Street, Back Street or Fifth Avenue. London's street names, all 23,000 of them recorded in the A to Z, are themselves a poetical and historical anthology, tinged with mystery. One can walk from Mortimer Street to Eastcastle Street, Kinveachy Gardens adjoin McCall Crescent, turn left and you will get to Artillery Place. And not just in the centre of the city, either, but far, far out across the vast capital, away into the suburbs where the first country green begins to appear, and high in the sky the birds begin their descent to Heathrow — even far out there Pearsall survives, and ancient quirks of the London style give spark to rows of ordinary villas, and raise a wry smile from the wandering memory of the city.

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The French are finding it hard to give up Gaullist habits of economic intervention, reports MARK MILNER in Paris, as ALEX DUVAL SMITH charts the impact on industry and workers

Costs of the ancien regime

STATIST meccano is just one of the soubriquets attached to France's traditional corporate structure — a network of cross shareholdings and directorships linking banks, insurers and industrial groups run by a grandes-ecoles educated élite and backed by a strong strand of government intervention.

Alain Madec, head of strategy at oil group Total, sees it differently. The shape of corporate France has been dictated by the need to develop "capitalism without capital".

"The main characteristic of French capital, in comparison with the Anglo-Saxon [model] is the lack of long-term savings, which comes from the restructuring of the pension system after the second world war," he said.

France's decision to opt for a pay-as-you-go system means it lacks the private pension funds that provide a large chunk of the institutional stock market investment in, for example, the UK and the US. French savings tend to end up in shorter-term money market funds and bonds.

That is fair enough, but the "statist meccano" jibe has an uncomfortable element of truth in it. State involvement in industry has a long history in France. Think of Louis XIV and his finance minister, Jean-Baptiste Colbert. Despite several waves of privatisation — the first in 1986/87, the latest still ongoing — state ownership remains very significant.

Indeed, companies quoted on the French stock market account for only about a third of French gross domestic product, compared to rather more than double that figure in the US and Japan. The rest is largely France's powerful

array of family firms and the state. How much the state could do to change that situation can be judged by France Telecom.

Jean-François Theodore, chairman of the Paris Bourse (stock market), reckons that floating France Telecom would increase the quoted company to GDP ratio by at least five percentage points.

State ownership does not command the support it once did. "The principle of state ownership of competitive companies is an anomaly," according to Francois Henrot, a member of the managing board at Groupe Paribas and one of the authors of the Vienot report on corporate governance, which was published last year.

It is not simply that as shareholder, the government's top priority has not been shareholder value. It has also been criticised for starving them of cash and then casting them off, ill-prepared, into the private sector.

But while the government may be prepared to roll back the frontiers of state ownership — not least for the revenues that privatisations bring — it is still prepared to intervene industrially. It is heavily involved, for example, in putting together the defence groups Aerospatiale and Dassault — a development dismissed by Olivier Cadot, assistant professor of economics at the INSEAD business school as "the meccano at its worst".

Mr Cadot is worried that the Chirac administration will bring back the traditional, interventionist Gaullist approach to industry. "We are seeing Gaullist policies in areas of foreign policy, security policy, industrial policy — it is a huge setback."

Not everyone agrees. Some



State of unease... La Défense's corporate culture is 'capitalism without the capital'

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

argue that the state has a role to play in the Aerospatiale-Dassault affair because it is the biggest customer of both companies. As to the more general Gaullist rhetoric, that is seen as an effort to soothe French anxieties about what is happening to the traditional system as the result of outside pressures, with the administration talking all the more loudly because of its in-

creasing impotence in the face of those pressures. One of the engines driving change is the increasing presence of foreign investors in the French market. They now account for about 35 per cent of the capitalisation of the Paris stock market. Though the most recent spectacular shareholder rows in France — Suez and Navigation Mixte last year, the small sharehold-

ers pressure groups at Euro-tunnel — there is no doubt that, behind the scenes, foreign investors have increased the pressure on French companies to dismantle relationships which may have provided stability but which have also acted as a barrier against change towards a more open system.

The globalisation of markets, exposing French firms to greater international competition has acted as an additional spur.

"It would clearly be overstating it to say these changes have been desired by the majority of French companies. They have accepted them as something they cannot avoid and as the logical consequence of the growing foreign ownership," said Mr Henrot.

He should know. Some members of the Vienot committee threatened to walk out if the issue of cross-shareholdings was raised in its report. In the end, they were persuaded and the report came down firmly against cross shareholdings as "a transitional phenomenon in French capitalism, and one whose elimination as quickly as possible would appear highly desirable".

Some may even be learning to love the new approach. "Many companies are turning to the idea of suppressing cross-shareholdings, not necessarily only because of pressure from institutional investors, but also because they think it is profitable to have their equity in direct invest-

ment in industrial fields linked to their business," according to Mr Theodore.

Guy Longueville, a senior economist at Banque Nationale de Paris, has his own theory about why at least some cross-shareholdings may be unwound. "In the seventies and eighties, the banking sector was more profitable than the non-financial sector, and during this period the banking sector entered into the industrial sector." Now the industrial sector is the more profitable of the two, the banks may look for the exit route as far as their industrial holdings are concerned.

An increase in prices on the Paris market might also help in making it financially more rewarding to unwind the cross-holdings. Mr Theodore is among those who believe the days of the network of the Paris market might also help in making it financially more rewarding to unwind the cross-holdings. Mr Theodore is among those who believe

they did not even have to say whether they were complying. The point is given added weight when, as Mr Henrot acknowledges, "the culture of self-regulation is not, by far, as rooted in French culture and behaviour as it is in the UK, for example".

The report itself stresses the differences between French capitalism and the Anglo-Saxon variety, contrasting the latter's emphasis on "enhancing shareholder value" with the French focus on the company, which it defined as "a separate economic agent, pursuing its own objectives which are distinct from those of shareholders, employees, customers creditors and suppliers".

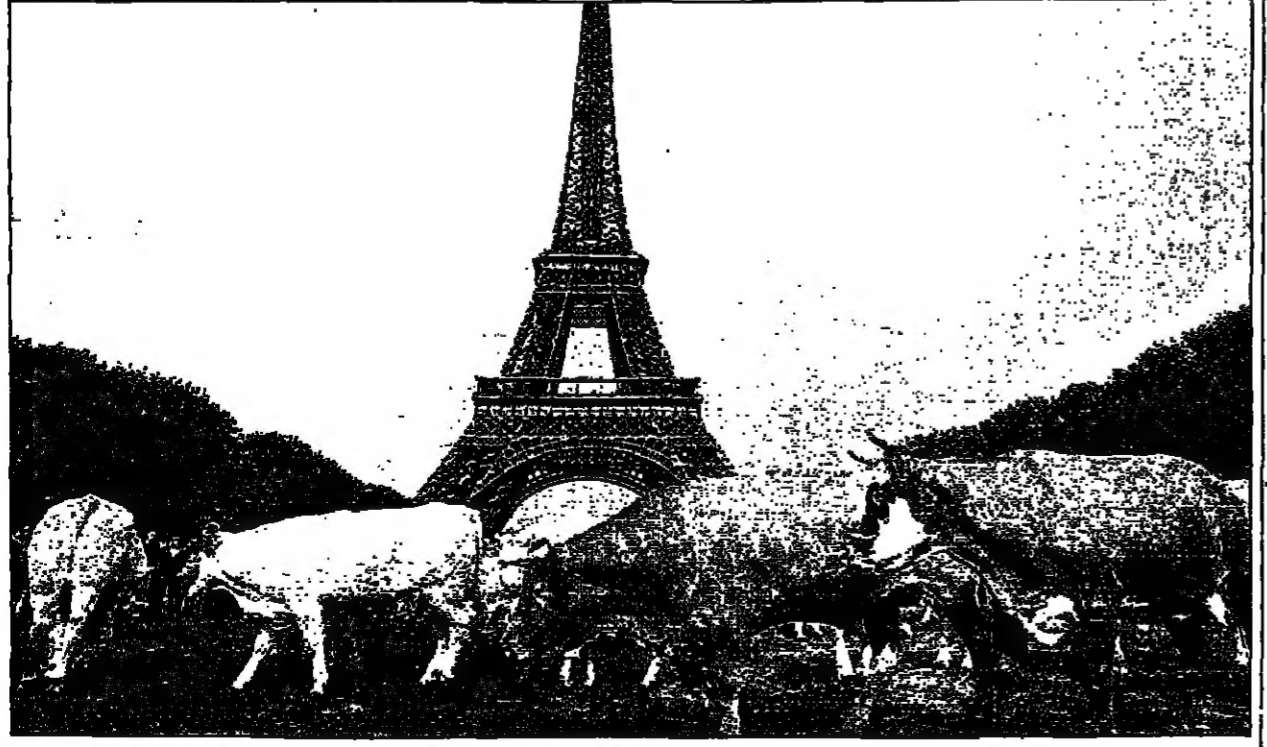
Mr Henrot reckons too much significance can be attached to the apparent differences. Over the long term, the

Arnaud de Bresson at Paris Europlace, a body aimed at developing Paris's position as a financial system, believes there has been a cultural change. Five years ago, he says, the French wanted to retain a Gallic element in any changes. Now "we are more pragmatic, proof that we are going in the Anglo-Saxon market way".

Many in France believe that the development of pension funds will be a significant force in the restructuring of capitalism, and will do much to sweep away the legacies of the past.

However, Mr Madec suggests that they may be more important in terms of corporate governance than as a source of equity capital.

Mr Cadot, however, is not convinced that the corporate sector can be relied upon to put its own house in order. He compares the French corporate élite around 30 of whose members are facing judicial examination — to the medieval French chiv-



Taking the Eiffel tour... Marginalised farmers yesterday used stock to make their point

PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIPPE WOLJAZER

Insecurity may quell backing for autumn of discontent

FRENCH unemployment fell by 20,000 last month but, with the headline rate unchanged at a record 12.5 per cent, the continuing high level of joblessness may dampen enthusiasm for a widely expected autumn of industrial unrest.

The fall in unemployment came as union leaders called for a new strike movement next month to rival that which paralysed much of France last December.

However, several militant unions, including teachers, are known to favour settling a dispute over job cuts behind closed doors.

With future job losses expected to be concentrated in the private sector and the defence industries, which face up to 30,000 layoffs in the next 10 years, many of this autumn's protests are likely to be piecemeal and based in the French regions.

Nevertheless, unions are in-

tent on recreating the Paris-originated dynamic which paralysed the country last winter. This could come as a knock-on effect of a workers' demonstration called for September 22 and from a joint day of action which teaching unions hope to stage.

Government opponents believe the dynamic is already in place, following two demonstrations over the heavy-handed treatment of 300 immigrants, evicted from a Paris church by police using axes.

On the other hand, the police action earned President Jacques Chirac an immediate three-point rise in

his opinion poll "satisfaction" rating — his highest score since March.

Any lasting industrial action will also be dependent on the government's success in appeals for belt-tightening in the lead-up to single currency. It must also satisfy French farmers, who are vocal if somewhat sidelined by the mainstream union movement, that it can secure satisfactory compensation from Brussels for their mad cow disease losses.

The only measures promised to sugar the pill are some as yet unspecified income tax cuts in the 1997 budget.

Divine right of Chirac leaves aircraft firms cursing union

DRAGGED to the altar for a forced marriage with the loss-making Aerospatiale, the profitable family-owned fighter plane builder Dassault Aviation felt the full force of Gaullist-style industrial intervention earlier this year.

President Jacques Chirac decreed on February 21 that the two aircraft builders should unite, as part of a restructuring programme aimed at leading France closer to Nato and at putting its defence industries on a competitive footing with international conglomerates.

But to Serge Dassault, the 71-year-old head of a private company which last year made profits of Fr 288 million (£26 million), the marriage with Aerospatiale, the Airbus builder which in the same year lost Fr 981 million, seemed a case of high treason.

Mr Dassault took out full-page newspaper advertisements boasting the merits of his company's Rafale fighter aircraft.

The message directed at the Gaullist president was clear: if Mr Chirac looked closely at old family photo albums he would find snaps of himself sitting on the lap of Marcel Dassault, Serge's father and predecessor.

Not only that, but Mr Chirac's father had been employed by a Dassault subsidiary.

Serge Dassault felt he had done more than was expected of him under Gaullist rules.

Not only had his company been a generous donor to the Gaullists, but Mr Dassault had won the party in a municipality ruled by the Communists for 40 years.

True, Mr Chirac had returned favours. The Fr 100 billion Rafale was developed in the late 1980s

after pressure from Mr Chirac, then prime minister. In 1986, under the standard government prerogative of influencing key industry appointments, Mr Chirac had overruled his own defence minister's objections to Serge succeeding Marcel, who had just died.

The sides-mémoire of the newspaper advertisements were, however, only a last-ditch attempt by Mr Dassault to keep the company in the family.

Sensing, last December, that a wind of change was about to blow apart his company's tangled web with France's rulers, Mr Dassault entered into a co-operation deal with British Aerospace.

Europe's fragmented defence industry has been looking at ways of cooperation for some time — both via joint venture projects and closer corporate links — in order to meet the challenge of the big US firms.

But Mr Chirac favoured French deals. Bringing to bear Gaullist pride, he wanted new French conglomerates which would be capable of challenging the international competition.

By June 25, a full merger plan had been hammered out and both parties promised their joint operation would be up and running by the middle of 1997.

Under the agreement, Aerospatiale's Fr 49.2 billion turnover and Dassault's Fr 9.8 billion turnover created a conglomerate worth nearly Fr 60 billion — more than British Aerospace or Germany's Dasa. If not compatible with the huge US aircraft builders.

In France, it was just another occurrence of the untranslatable everyday term, "la raison d'Etat" — a republican version of divine right.

The pay-as-you-go pension system means France lacks the private funds that fuel institutional stock market investment in the UK or US

Interests of company and shareholders are unlikely to differ, he says. And he notes the Paris Bourse authorities have decided that, from next year, the annual reports of listed companies will have to show some degree of compliance with the Vienot recommendations.

French chiv- the English longbow at Agincourt. It is enarchy, he says, in a play on the initials of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, where many of its members were educated.

"If there is to be change, it is not going to come from within the élite."

Eurocats



مكتبة الصلح

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MILE EYE



City workers on the move at Broadgate. Going to lunch? Or are they striding out confident of clinching a multi-million pound deal? This photograph concludes David Sillitoe's portfolio of summer scenes in the Square Mile

Future of Winchester in doubt as main brokerage business closes • 'Adverse publicity' blamed

Copper trading arm shuts

UNCERTAINTY last night surrounded the future of Winchester Commodities, which ended its short career as the most powerful player in the world copper market by announcing that its main brokerage business had ceased trading.

The company insisted that it retained the full confidence of its bankers. Traders will continue operating its outstanding positions in the metal markets, and its separate Asset Management operation will remain active.

The company has been the subject of intense scrutiny since the Japanese firm of Sumitomo in June announced that it had discovered an alleged fraud of \$1.8 billion and sacked its "rogue trader", Yasuo Hamanaka.

The Serious Fraud Office and City of London police subsequently announced that they were launching a full investigation into possible British links with the losses made on the Japanese market.

Winchester is among the companies which have been scrutinised, and the Hampshire homes of the company's co-founders, Charles Vincent and Ashley Levett, were recently raided by police.

Leading traders yesterday appeared to have been expecting the Winchester closure. Gary West, a trader at Worcester Ltd, said: "We knew they'd been scaling down, and there had been plenty of rumours in the market that certain people had been leaving, so it's not that unexpected. But I think this is less down to the Sumitomo debacle than down to the fact that Charlie Vincent and Ashley Levett no longer have anything to do with Winchester on a day-to-day basis — they were Winchester."

The outlook for the metal price has been made more uncertain because of a strike in Chile, which is the world's largest copper producer. Industrial action yesterday drove copper futures in New York to their highest price in more than two months.

Copper for December delivery — the active contract — surged as much as five cents to 96.70 cents a pound on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. This is the December contract's highest price since June 13. The September contract, representing the contract closest to expiry, rose as much as 6.70 cents to 97.20 cents a pound, the highest since June 15.

Notebook

Testing Labour's business mettle



Edited by Alex Brummer

COMPETITION policy is hardly likely to be close to the top of a New Labour agenda which will initially be dominated by big picture issues such as constitutional reform, the utilities (already too late) and Europe. Yet, when Labour unveils its prospectus for business at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in London on Wednesday, there may be no better means of measuring its attitude towards business than the stand it takes in this area.

There is plainly much that is wrong with the current multi-tiered approach to competition policy. There is a tendency for the gatekeeper, the Office of Fair Trading, to try to fit competition by carving out deals with companies which have a habit of running rings around it: the deal which Gerry Robinson of Granada carved out on the sale of motorway service stations (post the Forth takeover) is a case in point. Moreover, even if the OFT recommends that bid or an uncompetitive practice be looked at by the next tier, the Monopolies & Mergers Commission, it can be overruled by the Ministers.

As for the current MMC, it has been widely criticised for its belief that the public interest and liberal economic theory are one and the same, giving the impression that it has a pro-business and big business bias. Moreover, its prestige has been damaged by the recent decision of the Trade Secretary overruling its judgment that the power generators National Power and Powergen should be allowed to absorb regional electricity companies.

New Labour has talked about taking competition policy out of the political spectrum by creating a new super Office of Competition and Consumer Standards — parallel perhaps to its new super City regulator — which would in effect bring the OFT and MMC under one roof. This would be intellectually unconvincing.

In the current system, the OFT is essentially the prosecutor and the MMC the court. Putting the two together would likely clog up the system with cases which the OFT as gatekeeper should not let through and which in effect load the dice against takersover.

Not all of which are necessarily anti-competitive. Better perhaps, as now seems likely, to go for reform rather than thoroughgoing overhaul. Certainly, politics needs to be absolutely removed from the first stage of the process: all deals should go to the OFT and its recommendations should be acted on by the MMC not ministers. Moreover, the OFT would be better off referring more upwards, rather than shabby dispute over the terms of his successor George Simpson's contract. Instead, it now appears that a long-cherished Weinstock ambition of creating a trans-European power plant enterprise, which is genuinely the equal of General Electric in the US and ABB, is now possible with the proposed merger with Framatome, the French nuclear group. This will be a more fitting legacy.

Weinstock legacy
IT WOULD have been unfortunate had the end of Lord Weinstock's era at GEC been overshadowed by a shabby dispute over the terms of his successor George Simpson's contract. Instead, it now appears that a long-cherished Weinstock ambition of creating a trans-European power plant enterprise, which is genuinely the equal of General Electric in the US and ABB, is now possible with the proposed merger with Framatome, the French nuclear group. This will be a more fitting legacy.

Weinstock ends reign in style with £9bn deal

LORD Weinstock, the man who ends a 33-year stint at the head of GEC next week, pulled one last deal out of the bag yesterday when it was announced that the Anglo-French joint venture GEC-Alsthon is studying a \$9 billion merger with France's nuclear reactor builder, Framatome.

The industrialist has dreamt of adding an atomic power arm to the GEC-Alsthon power engineering and train-building venture, which is one of the three pillars of the GEC empire.

The go-ahead came late on Thursday when the French government informed Alcatel Alsthon, which once controlled Framatome but now owns a 44 per cent stake, and its partner GEC that it would consider a bid for the reactor builder.

With GEC ready to make concessions to head off a City revolt over the remuneration of Lord Weinstock's successor, George Simpson, and with the prospect of further mega-deals, an eventual last week for the GEC managing director seems assured.

Observers believe the bank could sell out to raise some desperately needed cash. Framatome staff also own 5 per cent of the group.

A merger would boost GEC-Alsthon's staff numbers to 30,000 and produce combined sales of around £15 billion (£9 billion). But a deal, which could take months to agree, could also spark a wider reorganisation of the power engineering sector.

Framatome, which has built France's army of pressurised water reactors now producing 75 per cent of French electricity, has links with Siemens of Germany to tap East European markets. GEC is aligned with Westinghouse of the US in building Britain's Sheswell B PWR in Suffolk. The joint venture with the French is a strong profit earner for GEC and provided nearly half of the company's £2.5 billion cash pile at the end of March. The prospect of boosting the venture pushed GEC shares up 5p to 385.5p.

GEC believes that the market for nuclear stations — which has shrunk dramatically in the 10 years since Chernobyl — will revive early in the next century in Europe and the Far East.

BNFL loses £88m with 'tax bomb'

BITISH Nuclear Fuels yesterday insisted it had overcome technical problems at its controversial £2.75 billion Thorp reprocessing plant in Cumbria as it announced that a huge tax provision sent it plunging to an \$88 million loss last year.

The group also disclosed that it expected profits to be denied in the current year because of operational problems with recently-privatised British Energy reactors and a refurbishment of Magnox reprocessing facilities.

Launching BNFL's annual report, the chairman, John Guinness, said the company stood by forecasts that Thorp would make \$500 million of profit in its first 10 years.

However, the company confirmed that the start-up of the plant, which separates used fuel into reusable plutonium, uranium and waste — has been slowed by technical glitches. After two and a half years, 300 tonnes of fuel has been put into the plant, but it appears that only about half has been fully reprocessed.

91pc of Names back Lloyd's rescue deal

LLOYD'S of London yesterday declared its £2.2 billion rescue package unconditional and disclosed that more than 91 per cent of its 34,000 investors had accepted the deal.

The settlement is the key plank of the plan designed to avert the collapse of the 308-year-old insurance market. Lloyd's racked up losses of nearly £8 billion in 1995-96 and many of the investors, known as Names, were almost bankrupted.

Lloyd's chairman, David Rowland, said he was confident the rescue would now succeed although he added: "We are not quite at the destination yet."

He added that Names who had not yet signed up to the deal would be able to do so until noon on September 11 — a two-week extension to the original deadline.

Province's electric row boils up to MMC referral

RELATIONS between Northern Ireland Electricity and its regulator plunged new depths yesterday when the company rejected Offer's latest price review.

NIE launched a scathing attack on Douglas McIlDoon, head of Offer (NI) after refusing to accept his demand for a 31 per cent cut in prices. This immediately triggered a monopolies inquiry.

Patrick Haren, NIE's chief executive, said: "I have never heard anything so outrageously outlandish. Where on earth the man got this... from is beyond me. We unreservedly refute the nonsense of it."

He said the proposals would "materially damage" NIE's ability to maintain appropriate levels of network reliability and customer service.

Yeltsin shakes bullion markets

WORLD bullion and gemstone markets were shaken yesterday as it emerged Boris Yeltsin had put himself in direct control of Russia's \$3.5 billion-plus strategic reserves of diamonds and precious metals.

The president has dissolved the Komdrazmet agency that runs the stockpiles of gold, platinum and diamonds. The fear is that Mr Yeltsin will dip into the reserves to fund both the Russian budget deficit and election promises.

Airbus net widens
The partners in plane maker, Airbus Industrie, have approached Sweden's Saab.

Election battleground
On Monday the Economics Page starts a week-by-week guide to the battleground in the general election, exploring the economic issues that will determine whether Britain has its first change of government since 1979.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,000	France 7,515	Italy 2,328	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.87	Germany 2,225	Malta 0.5590	South Africa 8.28
Belgium 18.25	Spain 360.00	Netherlands 2,620	Spain 188.25
Canada 2,075	Hong Kong 11.74	New Zealand 2.19	Sweden 10.14
Cyprus 0.88	India 56.57	Norway 5.73	Switzerland 1,705
Denmark 8.08	Ireland 0.8225	Portugal 229.75	Turkey 129,280
Finland 6.875	Israel 4.88	Saudi Arabia 5.07	USA 1,525

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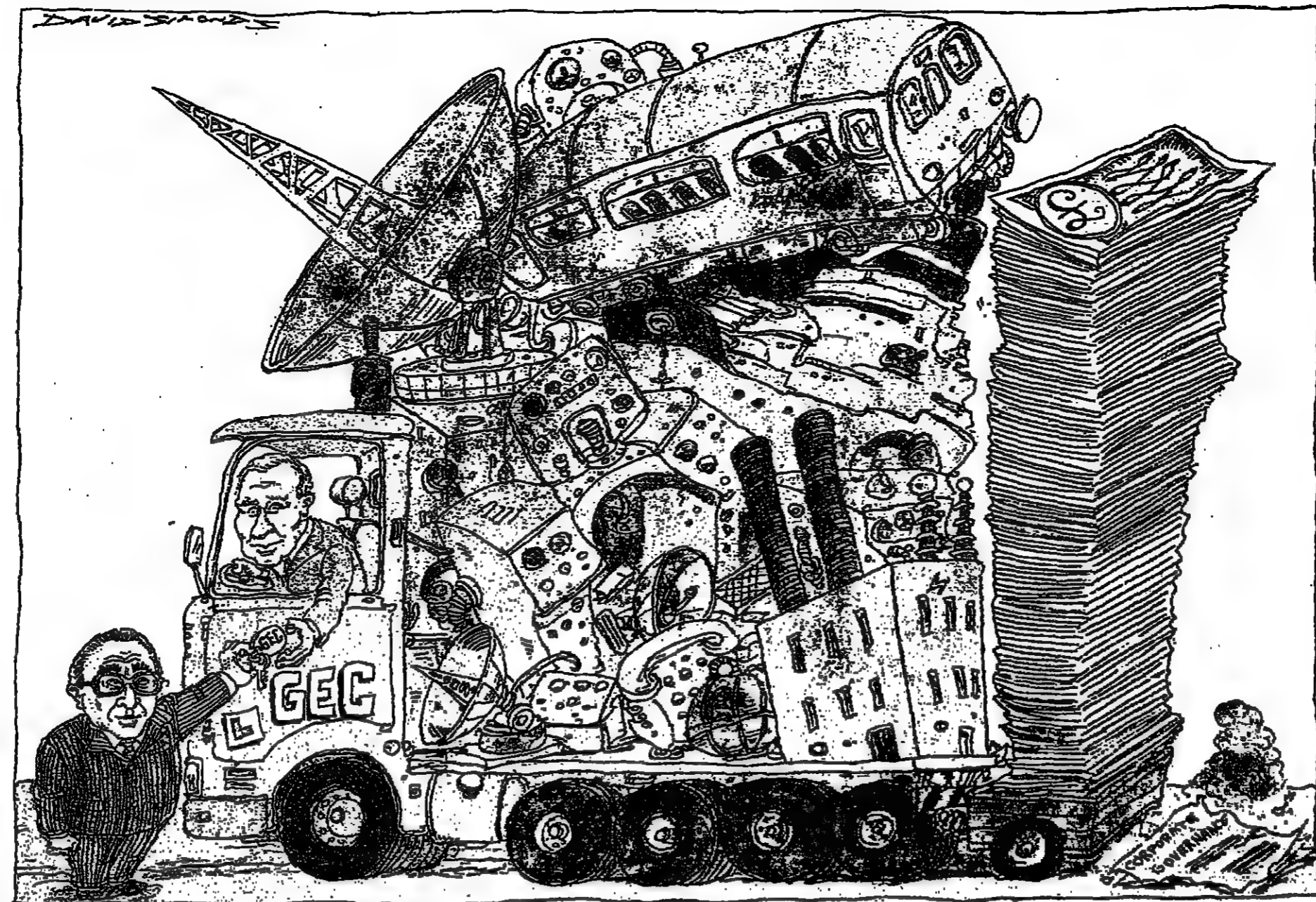
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Finance Guardian

Lord Weinstock dominated British industry at GEC for 33 years. ROGER COWE and SIMON BEAVIS ponder the company's future

THE future which blew up this week over the pay package awarded to GEC's new managing director, George Simpson, will disrupt the supposedly smooth handover of power at the electronics giant's annual meeting on Friday.

A British Gas-style rumpus over the £10 million he could earn during the next five years is the last thing GEC wanted at a crucial point in its history. This week Lord Weinstock, a towering industrialist, passes the baton to Mr Simpson, perhaps the leading industrial strategist of his generation.



Lord Weinstock has established himself as a master builder of international alliances — it is entirely in keeping with his record that in his last week in control of the company's Anglo-French power division, GEC Alsthom, should announce plans for a multi-billion pound merger with nuclear power station builder Framatome.

By contrast Mr Simpson is the man who sold Rover to the Germans. He has honed his skills in turning flagging companies round and selling them off.

The contrasts are personal too. "The gulf between the two men is so vast it's almost impossible to seize on a comparison," one analyst commented.

Is there life after Arnold?

Somebody who has been at the sharp end of business most of his life, as indeed he has, and observers might well mark him out as an engineer rather than the accountant he trained as.

This fairly classic executive career pattern and personality could not be more different from Lord Weinstock's, who had no formal business training and who has barely budged from his desk at GEC's head office in Mayfair for the past 30 years.

He had run only the small television and radio business of the Sobell family he married into before being catapulted, at the age of 28, into the top job of an ailing GEC in 1963.

high, but once the return began to fall, demands for the money to be spent became more strident.

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Anatomy of an empire

The GEC empire

Sales, £m	Profit, £m	
Defence electronics	3,998 59	291
*Power systems	3,722 86	477
*Telecoms	1,670 67	188
General industrial	2,397 20	204

*Includes GEC's share of joint ventures

Where the sales go

Rest of world 21% UK 29%

Americas 18%	Other Europe 20%	France 12%
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The culture clashes appear to have been greater, and the enthusiasm less, than with the French deal, and it would be unsurprising if Siemens gradually acquired majority control. Marconi is the third leg, and the only one to be wholly owned. Built on the Marconi subsidiary of English Electric, the div-

Quick Crossword No. 8219

Solution No. 8218

Across

- 1 Pale yellow spring flower (6)
- 2 Foolish (7)
- 3 Port near Sugar Loaf Mountain (3,2,7)
- 4 Spanish wine (6)
- 5 "I was elsewhere" plea (5)
- 7 Strong liking (6)
- 8 Soldiers in battle (8,6)
- 12 Charge less than (8)
- 15 Dampen (7)

Down

- 1 Playing cards — put in suitcase (4)
- 5 Place for tents (4)
- 9 Capital of Egypt (5)
- 10 Feeling (7)
- 11 Absolute nonsense (5,7)
- 13 Drink of the gods (6)
- 14 Flowering plant's male organ (6)
- 17 Limited stop rail transport (7,5)
- 20 More easily understood — less cloudy (7)
- 21 Exterior (5)
- 22 Orderly — of fair size (4)
- 23 Attendance (6)

16 One charging excessive interest (6)
18 Beg (5)
19 Soft, white cheese (4)

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 2448. Calls cost 39p per min, cheap rate 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT3

have been significant cyclical downturns in all of the main business sectors — defence, telecoms and power engineering. Yet GEC has managed to record steady if unspectacular growth.

While Lord Weinstock's reputation is probably less than is deserved, however, there are question marks over where his successor's reputation has come from, and how soundly it is based.

'He did a great job in securing the future of GEC, but left it constrained by not being willing to spend on new products'

Prof Gareth Rhys, Cardiff Business School

Mr Simpson's early career is difficult to assess, although surviving the maximisation that was British Leyland in the 1970s and 1980s speaks for itself to some extent. But more recently his main achievements have been in selling British businesses to foreign firms.

After solving a problem for British Aerospace by selling Rover to the Germans, he has now married off Lucas to a US banking and diesel group, Vauxley.

Rover has widely been seen to have been transformed from the basket case which was British Leyland, and Simpson got much of the credit. But now some doubts are emerging.

"British Leyland was never as bad as it seemed and Rover was never as good as it seemed," Prof Rhys said. And in a recent circular, US stock broker Salomon Bros highlighted the problems which BMW is finding with its British offshoot. "In our view Rover is both a short and a medium-term burden on a BMW. Rover emerges from this review as the European volume manufacturer with the most work to accomplish to reach industry standards."

The challenge for Mr Simpson at GEC is formidable, and there seem to be few easy options, since this is not a group which is on its uppers and needs to be turned round. The group has a long tail of miscellaneous industrial businesses which are obvious candidates for sale. Many have been available for some time, at the right price, and it seems unlikely that there will be a rush of buyers once Mr Simpson takes over.

But the bulk of the group, and the biggest challenges, lie in the three main legs — GEC Alsthom, Telecommunications, and Marconi. Here the challenge is to move with the wind of shifting alliances and European consolidation, ensuring that GEC remains at the top table. It requires the sort of skill which Mr Simpson showed in dealing with Honda and Vauxley, but he will do well to match Lord Weinstock's canny manoeuvres and astute deals.

Weinstock pulls last deal, page 11

31 August to 7 September

Tabloid TV

The woman 'abused' by Esther
The Coles Interview 15



Leave it out Arfur
Bron jumps to Di's side
Head to head 16



Oh brother, it is heavy
The danger of being a sibling
Arts feature 18



The Guardian

the week

...a great
...securing
...future of
...but left it
...framed by
...being willing
...and on new
...ducts'



It has been the summer of lost children, says **Blake Morrison**. And it's all our faults that they are gone

Fear for their lives

ACCORDING to legend, the Pied Piper, angry at being cheated of his reward for ridding Hameln of its rats, retaliates by leading away the children of the town. His music enchants them into the hill, away from their parents, never to come back. It's a story which expresses a primal adult terror: the fear of one's children suddenly and inexplicably disappearing. One can imagine parents telling it to each other in ages when children were commonly taken from them by illness and disease. Over the last month, it's a story that has become resonant again.

All parents in all ages have worried about losing their children. But the sudden flash of anxiety — the feeling the ground might swallow them up, that if you relax for a minute they'll disappear and never be seen again — is a peculiarly late 20th-century phenomenon. It's all some parents think about. Even when you're not thinking about it, or you think you're not thinking about it, it can creep up on you, like a shadow, darkening an innocent moment.

It crept up on me a few evenings ago, in a harvest field. Two of my children and their friends had been playing a game with straw bales: the modern, cylindrical bale — the sort that looks like a giant cotton reel — is easy to push, and the game was to roll the bale while someone tried to kneel or stand on top of it. Afterwards, we headed back to the house over another stubby field, where the children re-ran the Olympic 110 metres hurdles over straw that was still lying ungathered in long rows.

It was a perfect evening: the moon coming up, an owl hooting, wisps of mist over the stubble. But gradually, worryingly, the children slipped from view. The youngest was wearing a white T-shirt, and seemed to go under, lost behind the

waves of straw. There was no need to worry: the house was close by, we were alone in the middle of a cornfield; it wasn't as if there were cars about, or dangerous animals, or paedophiles, or murderers. There was no need to worry; but I did worry, and wasn't happy again until I found the children safely back at the house.

It's been the summer of lost children. Last August the running news story was the weather: unbroken skies and record temperatures. This year — to use Andrew O'Hagan's coinage — it's the Missing. In Belgium they're digging for the bodies of the children murdered by the builder and convicted sex offender Marc Dutroux.

In Cornwall, French police carry out DNA tests on the friends of 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson, after she was raped and murdered while on a school holiday in Brittany. In Dumbarton, the mother of 14-year-old Caroline Glachan appeals for witnesses to come forward, after her daughter's battered body is recovered from the River Leven. In Birmingham, the body of 16-year-old Lucy Burchell is found behind a nightclub the day before her GCSE results; Lucy is described as bright and well-liked in her Staffordshire village, though later it emerges she'd fallen in with the wrong crowd and had been supplementing her pocket money by working as a prostitute.

There are other losses, no less haunting than the headlines of rape and murder. Five teenagers from Leicester — one 14 — are killed on holiday when their car overturns and lands in a Lincolnshire dyke. Two boys tell an inquest how they watched a pack of Rottweilers tear apart their 11-year-old friend when he climbed into a yard. Even prenatal deaths make the headlines, as a woman aborts one of her twins, to the outrage of pro-life lobbyists. **page 14**

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL GRAHAM/COURTESY ANTHONY REYNOLDS GALLERY

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THE DIFFERENCE IS DEBENHAMS

the week that was

Them on them

This ruling deserves to be taken as a warning to the leaders of all nations yet to implement democracy...

The Women's Corps is considering allowing women soldiers to keep berets in their handbags, and not under the shoulder strap...

Us on us

Like it or not, people living in the Bishop's Stortford area have to realise that Stansfeld Airport's designation as the hijack destination for south eastern England...

Manton is back in the national doghouse. TV reporters were back in town as the row over so-called tiny terror Matthew Wilson boiled up once more...

Never too remote from a TV remote, Asian children are being zapped from an early age by colonialism via satellite. Media experts are worried about what this invasion from the skies will do to local diversity...

Council officials are warning motorists to drive carefully in St Helens Cemetery and to respect the people buried there. The warning follows an accident at the cemetery last Wednesday...

THEME OF THE WEEK SURGERY

FOR a great part of this century, suburban man's two greatest fears have been, oh having to watch his assembly-line holiday movies (VCRs, and D) being furnished with intimate accounts of surgical procedures...



FRCS. You laughed with him as he discussed his golf handicap in Ingrowing Toenail. Now see him as never before... Gall Bladder: a motion picture experience, coming to you by decent charge making a legitimate packet on the side...

And it's not just that surgery vids are thoroughly above board, safe, sane, "educational" and brought to you by decent charge making a legitimate packet on the side. They are also a form of demarcation of the monarchy...

As we all grow up at coverage of such events, watching the really heroic and subtlest surgery will remain the privilege of the elite. If Dave Stray's husband had a chance of playing at D12 40th birthday, they can't help it...

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION ?

- 1. Who, according to Corriere della Sera, conquered the Italian women with his "intelligence, his open-mindedness and his great joie de vivre"? (a) Tony Blair (b) John Major (c) Liam Gallagher

- 2. Who reluctantly agreed to pay up to £100,000 after much persuasion? 3. Who rejected this as their new logo? (a) The SWP (b) The SDP (c) The SNP

This week last year

25.8-31.8.95

Bill Gates takes another step towards world domination

BILLED as the world's first ever celebrity computer programme, Microsoft's Windows 95 was downloaded a year ago from the software company's Seattle headquarters to an expectant consumer world...



advances pioneered years before by Apple — but not all good, either. Ahead of the launch, the jokes had already begun. "Microsoft 95 is Apple 88," ran one jibe.

PCs with insufficient memory to accommodate Windows. In order to run the new software, users had to spend more money upgrading their equipment.

younger rival Netscape. For years Microsoft, like other software manufacturers, had ignored the commercial potential of the Internet only to find itself losing out to companies which were cashing in on the appetite for programs to surf the Net.

FIRST PERSON DEMOCRAT DELEGATE

Gail Nardi, 53, is a Democrat from Riley, North Carolina. This week's convention was her first.

"We arrived on Friday and on Saturday night there was a huge gala for all the delegates on the Navy pier. The party was called A Taste of Chicago. There were hundreds of stalls with food and drink and lots of different music, from gospel to big band, and it was all free.

The whole week will cost most delegates about £1,000 in air fares and hotel bills, although about two-thirds of meals are offered free by various political groups or supporters. Our governor was co-host at a lunch thrown at basketball player Michael Jordan's restaurant. He's from North Carolina, but plays in Chicago. His Mum was there, though he was tied up in Hollywood.

Fear for their lives

page 13 Meanwhile, the nation holds its breath for the octuplets of Mandy Allwood, which, so the News of the World reports (it has bought the exclusive, and prints the picture of the ultrasound scan), are "alive and kicking" — as yet.



things are getting worse. Parents in 18th-century London, when 70 per cent of infants died before reaching the age of two, had much more cause for anxiety than we do. So why this current preoccupation?



came the day after a report by the charity Barnardo's on the findings of a project in Bradford dealing with child sex abuse — that at least 5,000 children under the age of 16 are "being kept prisoner, tortured and pushed on to the streets as prostitutes to feed the growing demands of paedophiles".



photos of her posing on "her first and last fashion shoot". To mourn the deaths of children is the mark of a civilised society. But to venerate fertility is a symptom of moral panic. That's why stories of births have been commanding the headlines. Children are being lost, so read about them being replenished in large numbers.

سكنا من الجمل

The media inquisition

Noelle Kelly, the matron of the hospital at the centre of the Esther Rantzen row, tells her story

THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW



I AM SITTING waiting for matron in the British Home and Incurables Hospital for incurables when Carlos, who is manning the reception desk, suddenly cocks his head and nods towards a strange shuffling noise coming towards us from the far end of the corridor. "It's Barbara," mumbles Carlos, recognising the limp, though we cannot see anyone, because the reception area is at a right-angle to the corridor. The shuffling grows nearer, then stops. All of a sudden, a thin white woman in a crimson dressing gown swings into view. She seems tall, perhaps six foot, in her mid-forties with black bob and a face so white it looks haunted. "Hello," she says, rocking above me and taking my eyes in her stare. "I'm dead."

"Come on Barbara," says Carlos, deftly turning her round and sending her shuffling slowly down the corridor from whence she came. It is an unnerving start. As yet I have no idea what to expect from the quaintly-named Home for Incurables. But then neither do most people. Why should they?

Set up by a charitable trust in 1861 (when Streatham in south London, was famous for its air and not its bus terminus) the BHHI is a home for the chronically sick — for people who were once fit and healthy, but who will never recover. For the victims of multiple sclerosis, car crashes, skiing accidents or anaesthetics which went horribly wrong. It is a place where a 24-year-old woman lies in a vegetative state after amniotic fluid flooded into her bloodstream as she gave birth. The child was born healthy.

It is a place where people come not to die, but to go on living in a strange otherworld that most of us will never know. A place where the 60 regular staff and a bank of volunteers give up their weekends to spoon fruit into wheelchair mouths at the strawberry garden party or drive residents to the subsidised seats for the disabled at the Royal Opera House.

There is, of course, no reason you should have even heard of BHHI, no reason at all — unless God forbid, you have a chronically ill relative. Or unless, that is, you chanced upon the Rantzen Report on BBC1 last week. In which case you will have a very different perception indeed.

Imagine for a moment that you are Noelle Kelly. You have been running the BHHI successfully for nine years and before that you employed a successful fundraiser, Director of Nursing for University College Hospital and the Midsex. As matron, you are responsible for patients, staff and ultimately the need to fundraise £900,000 a year. A spot on the Rantzen Report could be very useful to raise the profile and to also get staff on the back, since they don't get overpaid.

"When one of the staff heard we were on one of Esther's shows, he thought it was for a Heart of Gold Award," Kelly smiles wryly. Which just goes to show how wrong a matron can be.

So when a letter came from the Rantzen Report, inviting Kelly on to a show to discuss advocacy for the disabled with particular reference to one of her patients, 28-year-old Ian Parker, she wasn't abjectly worried. "I couldn't go on the programme because I was busy, I had a general medical advisory committee meeting scheduled for 12.30pm, and the programme was being recorded at 12pm, but I sent them a note back letting them know."

She thought no more about it. Until a week later, when she received a fax demanding her immediate reply to allegations that Parker has "virtually no stimulation during the day and no opportunity to exercise any choice about where he sits or what he does and that he is never taken out". The producer needed a reply by 11.30am — the programme was being recorded at 12pm. "We



Noelle Kelly... "What can I do? Get an apology on air to say they were wrong? And what good is that? It's trial by media"

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCCABE

would value your observations," the fax added ominously. "Since we will be including secret filming of Ian whilst the BHHI sets was in progress."

"I was appalled," says Kelly, running a hand through dishevelled hair. "We're not a secret organisation! Two days before the 'secret' filming, we had another BBC camera crew here, filming the Queen Mother! Video Diaries have just asked me if they can do something on us! If the Rantzen Report had asked me I would have said 'Come in and film'."

But they didn't.

"I had to get legal advice, clearly they had trespassed," she continues. "I needed to know if they had filmed other residents, in which case I needed to alert relatives." So her solicitor sent back three pages of A4 voicing her concerns. It made no difference. On August 19 the staff of BHHI trooped home in some trepidation, for Kelly had warned them

they were not up for an award after all. But even then she was not prepared for what she saw.

Between a horrific tale of one man's death and a young boy's sexual abuse, the programme jointly accused the BHHI of chronically neglecting Parker. (He suffered severe brain trauma when he was one year old and is unable to communicate at all.) A bombastic studio audience applauded as Esther made her accusations. There was no reason for the viewer to believe otherwise.

But no claim could be more strenuously denied. "The staff were devastated by it, devastated," cries Kelly, switching off a tape of the programme on her borrowed telly. "And they were furious with me for not stopping it from going out, but how could I? Indeed, how could she? What can people do when the media juggernaut comes thundering towards them?"

"I have worked nine days on the

trot now, when I should be running the home, just trying to clear this mess up." Her deputy, Christine Slack, arrives with a selection of supportive post, from volunteers and relatives of residents, all similarly horrified.

"I'm just so appalled, so appalled," Kelly chants absently, directing pieces of paper across her desk, which will comprise her official complaint to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. She has the skin-stretched, fleshy-eyed look of the exhausted. As we chat, her phone goes continually, friends, the board of directors, a worried relative, the Daily Mail, Telegraph and Express. She looks older than Esther Rantzen, who is three years her senior. But she also looks determined to clear the home's reputation.

"Here," she says, passing me a wodge of photographs which capture Ian Parker in the chapel, in the concert hall and at a volunteer's garden party in Kyrcroft.

"What can I do? Get an apology on air to say they were wrong? And what good is that? What comeback do I have? It's trial by media, she has victimised us."

Another word for it might be ambushed. Kelly was invited on to the show only after Rantzen's crew had already filmed secretly in the home. The letter inviting her to join the programme was misleading, suggesting the subject for discussion was advocacy — when in fact the programme was about abuse and neglect.

"I'm outraged as a human being that the staff of the Rantzen Report would treat me like this, their first letter was clearly dishonest," she ralls furiously. "If the first letter had contained the information, I still couldn't have gone to the programme but I would have sought permission from Ian's mother to reply. I gave them a lot of information to prevent this happening. I was horrified at what came out, this was the

BBC! I wouldn't say I was Esther's biggest fan, but I enjoyed *That's Life!* and I applauded her work on child abuse. But this; I am still shocked."

Kelly's long-term concern however, is not for journalism — the BBC can thrash that out in private. Kelly's concern is for the home itself, which as a charity needs to raise £600,000 a year to keep going. And the BHHI is up against stiff competition in the compassion stakes. There is nothing sexy about chronically ill adults, no red ribbons for those who drool all day.

"How can I put it?" she asks. "They're not seen as cuddly, are they? One charity donor I spoke to said he will donate only to furry animals and the opera. We don't think we will be smashed in a car accident and never work again, do we? You never think about it because it's rare to have a devastating illness, it's out of sight and mind. People don't know about us

and don't want to know unless they need us."

What irony then, that we need places like the Home for Incurables — albeit perhaps with a gentler name — more than ever. The pace of medical science means more people are kept alive, while the number of those who survive but have crippling brain injuries has risen by 25 per cent in the past 10 years.

Last January, the home opened a new wing, adding 48 new beds. There's no shortage of takers. On my way out, I pass the art room festooned with brass-rubbings; the hair and manicure salon, the dentist and the kitchen with ovens at wheelchair height where patients are encouraged to bake cakes. Past the newly-refurbished reception rooms and one of the TV rooms where three men sit. Ian Parker's arms flex involuntarily as he dozes through *Neighbours*. And how I wish that Esther Rantzen was with me.

JEREMY HARDY



Home truths about the Home Office horror show

SOMETIMES it is impossible to overstate the bleeding obvious. So let me take this opportunity to state that Michael Howard is surely one of the most repellent combinations of DNA ever to wear a dark suit. I do not seek to demonise him in the way the Left once demonised Thatcher, although he is a useful repository for that spare hatred. Today, Lady Thatcher is like a mad aunt, a person with appalling ideas who manages to be perversely entertaining by saying the wrong thing on family occasions. But in the eighties she was demonised to the extent that she appeared to have unearthly powers and we lost sight of how eminently defensible she was. In the end, her own side had to dump her because no one else would.

So I don't want to accord Howard that kind of status. It was only the Falklands War that saved Thatcher from early dismissal, and it was only Jack Straw's utter

uselessness that saved Howard from being driven into the sea by the entire nation. There was Howard, having united ramblers, ravers and judges into the most potent opposition force this century. And yet by one of those quirks of history that spawn a clarity of irony, the shadow home secretary happened to be Jack Straw. Appointed by Blair to make his own tenure of the position seem like a golden age, Jack Straw squared up to the most reviled man in England and single-handedly rescued his career. Why? Because he was frightened of him.

So there we were, saddled with Howard indefinitely. And he became ever more like Thatcher, utterly brazen. He seems to revel in being hated, in a way that suggests it is all he has ever known. He loves that he can cow civil servants into being his fall-guys. He appears to love the fact that no one believes a word he says. He doesn't even mind that his own side

thought for a minute he'd gone soft on hijackers; his record on asylum seekers is so brutal that he has nothing to prove.

And he gets away with it all in a way which is admirable. Even more so than Kenneth Clarke, from whom he inherited the Home Office. Clarke was as despicable in the job as he had been at Health and Education; but at some point he felt the need to re-invent himself as that amiable, beery jazz-lover for whom the Exchequer is an annoying distraction from appearing on the *Today* programme.

When you listen to Clarke joshing in that silly Chris Tarrant voice, you can almost forget the way he reviled teachers and nurses, that he called ambulance workers "glorified taxi-drivers", that he denied justice to the Bridgewater Four.

In those days, Clarke was still playing the unconscionable bruiser. Then it was decided that he had the potential to replace

Major, so he set about becoming what the broadcasters fondly call the "candidate of the Left". This title has nothing to do with ideology; it is awarded to whichever

know that it's not true. You know he would not be disarmingly funny or self-mocking or tipsy or flirtatious. I suspect he would exhibit a certain vulnerability, but the kind that makes you want to run away lest you become infected by it.

For there is something achingly weak about Michael Howard and he is not very good at disguising it. He does not cope with his rutenge parentage at all well. Portillo manages to be both British xenophobe and dashing Spaniard so comfortably and Hamboyantly that the shame he brings upon his father is all part of the package. Howard is evasive, furtive. So he throws himself wholeheartedly into law and order.

The tabloids conspire with him in depicting his court battles as fights between the man in the street and the ultra-left judiciary. And he appears to delight in losing them. Liberal commentators conspire in making the battles seem

ever more perilous for him, so that his survival seems ever more remarkable.

But the battle over the early release of prisoners was always going to be a cake-walk. The only question is whether he set the whole thing up to his advantage or whether he is incompetent. The latter is suggested by the fact that Richard Tilt's career was spared. Howard would love to dismiss Tilt and the party would love him for it. But he couldn't, because Tilt would not then have agreed to take the rap.

Similarly, although Howard would love to be like Clarke and deny justice to the Bridgewater Four, he faced a judicial review which he would at the moment have been in the process of losing. And that frightened him, so much that he reversed his decision and referred the case to the Court of Appeal. So let us all take heart. Michael Howard is not as hard as he likes to think he is.

Michael Howard seems to revel in being hated, in a way that suggests it is all he has ever known

Tory has the most convincing resemblance to a human being. Clearly Howard knows he will never be any good at that, so he doesn't really try. He is one of those men about whom it is said, "When you meet him, he's the opposite of what you expect" and you



Green roads to the cement factory

WERE JUST BACK from a splendid holiday in France, where in spite of the franc...

cent too low. Draw some more! "Oui, Monsieur," says the cowed little clerk...

once — the only time I've met her — when she turned to the audience and declared: "I think it is disgraceful to attack the royal family...

I CANNOT SEE what is so wrong with the video of NHS operations or why we are supposed to be so disgusted...

PRINCESS DIANA'S dazzling rime play on the day of her divorce proves again that she is the world's most natural public relations operator...

NOT SINCE SMALLWEED confessed to having forgotten most of the words of that grand old song Delaware...

Diana and the tabloids

Do we now leave Di alone? Opening a new series, writer Auberon Waugh and Arthur Edwards, Sun royal photographer, cross swords



Auberon Waugh, left and Arthur Edwards

Dear Arthur,

EVERYBODY understands that it is your job to take photographs of Princess Diana. Many will decide that photographs of her looking stressed and tearful as she fled after the divorce settlement...

It is reasonable to ask how you square this activity with your self respect as a newspaperman and as a human being. Part of the problem may be that you work for a proprietor who combines a former colonial boy's resentment against the mother country with some deeply personal, almost psychopathic anxieties about adultery...

Dear Auberon,

IT GIVES me no pleasure to see pictures of the Princess of Wales being chased through the streets of London. These pictures did not appear in the Sun and none of the pursuing photographers worked for Britain's favourite newspaper. I did not realise, Auberon, that you were on such intimate terms with the Princess — how else would you know that her tears were not caused by the stress of her divorce...

historical this week has been: the Waleses' divorce is a momentous event. It is one of the greatest news stories since the 1936 Abdication Crisis and the way the princess tackles her new solo role is of immense interest to everyone. When photographers trail after Diana, it is because they want to know if she will renounce and who will be the lucky chap? This is a legitimate news story. If you actually read the popular press instead of smugly criticising them, you would know that the Sun sticks to the Press Complaints Commission guidelines...

I agree that if and when she decides to renounce, it will be a matter of interest to nearly everybody in the country; but nobody outside the media will care who is first with the story. If she is followed around, night and day, by pressmen looking for chutes it will create unnecessary misery. I am sorry to hear they are cutting your expenses on the Sun. These are bad times for journalists. Could it be time for us both to try something else? Yours fraternally, Auberon Waugh

Dear Auberon,

I DON'T think you should believe everything that emanates from a royal office — or even a royal person. Some time ago I asked Princess Diana if she would ever watch a game of polo again. In reply she rolled her eyes to heaven and sighed: "No, I hate the game. I don't understand it and never have." Imagine my surprise, when shortly afterwards she turned up at Smith's Lawn with Prince Harry. Of course, it's every lady's prerogative to change her mind. But your adored princess seems to change hers quite a lot. Although she screams at pressmen in the street on occasion, she also coos up to them when she feels like it. Only recently she was spotted in Kensington Gardens enjoying a clandestine meeting with a newspaper reporter. If that was sheer coincidence, I'm a lottery winner. If you had worked with Princess Diana as often as I have you might not worry about her so much. She is much tougher than you think. Her father, the late Earl Spencer, called her "pure steel inside."

Dear Auberon,

WHEN Princess Diana bared her soul to the world on Panorama she divided the nation. Most women, as you say in your letter, supported her. Most men it seems couldn't care less. To them she is just a very lucky person living in a palace paid for by the taxpayer. A woman kept in such style, with £17 million in the bank from her ex-husband and untold privilege, should not complain if she is occasionally harassed unnecessarily by paparazzi. Although Princess Diana comes out of the top drawer, she is in my opinion a classless icon full of compassion. I see a mixture of Mother Teresa and Cindy Crawford — a woman unique to this century. Nobody knows better than I do, Auberon, what Diana has done for Britain. I have seen her shaking hands with lepers in Nigeria and with soul-searching honesty talking about her personal battle with bulimia. I certainly don't expect to see her like again in my lifetime. She is determined to leave this world a better place, and in the process try to drag the royal family kicking and screaming into the 21st Century. Even though Prince Charles has rejected her, she still has a lot to offer the nation — as well as broken-down photographers like me. But just remember, Auberon, Diana isn't perfect. Nobody is. Yours royally, Arthur Edwards

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Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

ALL THOSE enlightened people, Tory MPs especially, now congratulating the Way Ahead group or whatever it calls itself at the top of the Monarchist Party on suggesting that women should have as good a claim to the crown as men, should ask themselves what they were doing in 1981 when the Labour MP Michael English gave them the chance to vote for exactly that by introducing his Succession to the Crown Bill. Among those who are in the clear are the Tory MPs Janet (now Dame Janet) Footes and rather more surprisingly Harry Greenwood, not previously known for his radicalism, plus the Labour MP Betty Boothroyd, who some of us republicans regard as about the best bet for the head-of-statehood today.

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Stars and journeymen... Moldova's Constructorul v Unisport fixture is overshadowed by a concert for Hear O Israel, whose devotees are pictured below. Tomorrow, Glenn Hoddle's boys tread the same turf



Playing away with Jews for Jesus



Moldo-where? This obscure country is England's first World Cup stage tomorrow. Matthew Engel finds it full of trees and Wamburgers

Photograph by Don McPhee

THIS is a report from the most obscure country in Europe. Somewhat unexpectedly, the story also involves a singer who was well-known in the early 1960s, Helen Shapiro, of whom more later.

Miss Shapiro is probably not going to get more famous in the next 48 hours, but the country is. Provided the airport had one of its good days, the England soccer team should have arrived last night in Chisinau, capital of the Republic of Moldova, to play their first qualifying match for the 1998 World Cup.

The magic of football is such that by tomorrow night Moldova's name-recognition in Britain will have increased exponentially, which is important for a small country trying to make its way in the world. The downside is that by then Moldova will know more about us, and what they learn will be dictated by our footballers and their supporters, not always the most successful or sensitive of diplomats.

It is possible that the fans will trash the centre of Chisinau, and England will play like Charlies, struggling to a 0-0 draw before returning home whingeing about what a dump Moldova is, which is what the Welsh did when they played there two years ago.

Well, I would take Chisinau in preference to Tredegar any day. I have never seen so many trees in a city. The Soviet town blocks are fantastic, of course, but the centre is charming, and the wood-pigeons coo gently in the background; this is Moscow merged with Sleepy Hollow.

Moldova is the eastern part of what the English call either Moldavia or Bessarabia. It is tucked away between Romania and Ukraine, a touch bigger than Wales. The rest of Moldavia is part of Romania, and the Moldovan language is no more than Romanian with an accent. In 1940 this bit was grabbed by Stalin, who Russified Chisinau into Kishinev, and forced the people to use Cyrillic script, an order rescinded exactly seven years ago today.

But the place was not quite ruined. Heavy industry never came here. Instead, Moldova became a sort of Soviet Florida: miners who fulfilled their quotas for enough years in the Arctic Circle were allowed to retire down here, where the winters are normally softer.

Actually, last winter was unusually tough and Moldova ran out of money to pay the Russians for fuel. There is still no hot water and most of the street lights are off. But on Stefan the Great Boulevard (formerly Lenin Prospekt) the pavement cafe is going all night, and so do the Wamburger joints (note to McDonald's lawyers: their sym-

bol is two upturned golden arches — have fun in the Moldovan courts). The summer nights have a relaxed Italianate air. There is jazz on the radio. The beer is drinkable and the wine is very decent. The women are underdressed and not exactly stand-offish. A football supporter might think it was heaven. After a few drinks, a married old Guardian hack began to think it was pretty OK.

Even in the rougher parts of town, the usual East Bloc smell of piss and decay is mitigated by something more agreeable: cheese blintzes, I think. There is corruption, poverty and gangsterism — but less of all of these than in Russia or Ukraine or all those places ending in -stan. There are both fewer beggars and fewer Mercedes.

When the Soviet Union broke up, most thought Moldova would join Romania. But the people developed an unexpected taste for running their own affairs, although the minority of Russian-speakers in the east had their own views and splintered from the splinter, setting up the state of Trans-Dniestr.

No one takes much notice, however. Even government ministers still cross the supposed frontier without problems, and the soccer team from the Trans-Dniestr capital, Tiraspol, carries on playing in the Moldovan League as though nothing had happened. The West expects Trans-Dniestr to give up calmly.

Moldova would like to be known, if only for its wine and apple juice so it can make some money and switch the lights back on. But it is Bosnia and Chechnya that everyone has heard of. Moldova's obscurity comes from the good fortune of living in uninteresting times.

The people do know more about us than we about them. They like East 17 and Take That and adaptations of Jane Austen. Those with satellite dishes watched Good Morning with Anne and Nick. In Chisinau's astonishing number of casinos, they play cards on London-made blackjack tables. In the market, traders selling Greek olives, Russian salad cream, Bulgarian tomato ketchup and Polish pickled mushrooms mysteriously pack there out up in Sainsbury bags. And then of course there is Helen Shapiro.

Older readers will recall her as a north London Jewish teenager who took Walking Back to Happiness to no. 1 in 1961. She has not been in the charts for more than 30 years, but at 50 she still looks and sounds good. And until Hoddle, Gazza, Shearer and the rest got in last night, she was probably the most famous Briton ever to visit Chisinau.

But she was not playing the Chisinau Palladium in the way that 1960s stars scratch a living

in out-of-the-way venues. She was playing the Republic Stadium, where the footballers will appear tomorrow, as the star turn put on by the Hear O Israel ministry of Rochester, New York.

Chisinau was once a great centre of East European Jewish culture. In the 1920s over half of the population was Jewish. But the eastern edge of German-influenced anti-Semitism met the western edge of Stalinist oppression: nearly all the Jews left or were wiped out. The remainder, like the rest of Moldova, found themselves cut off both geographically and intellectually.

That has changed only partially, so if a group of Jews turn up, putting on a free show with songs and a firework display, giving away books and a pencil (in exchange for your name and address) to all-comers, Jewish or not, that constitutes big excitement in Chisinau.

Unlike most Jews, the Hear O Israel ministry seeks converts with the enthusiasm of American evangelical Christians. There is another, more fundamental, distinction: they believe Jesus was the Messiah.

The idea of Jews for Jesus is an oxymoron. But they don't know that in places where for decades people were told only what the Russians wanted them to know. Anyway, life under Communism was full of contradictions. This is why the Hear O Israel ministry goes to Minsk and Odessa and Chisinau and keeps rather quiet in London, Brooklyn and Tel Aviv.

AT FIRST I thought the whole business was too surreal to mention. But I came to think it was fun — a simple solution to a complex world. But it is the simplists who present themselves to the Moldovans. The Jehovah's Witnesses have already been in town this month. Before the autumn is out, every organised group of charismatics and quacks imagine they could be along to whip up a bit of money and enthusiasm: Bessarabian imperialists, flat-earthers, Nazis, Communists even.

This weekend the stadium will belong to the footballers, from

stars. They were not even prepared to wait. Their security people kicked the football reporters out of the press box: the Moldovans, used to obeying authority, meekly complied.

Then, with the game still in progress, the orchestra began warming up, a process magnified by giant speakers positioned just behind the ears of the Unisport goalkeeper, Anatol Borovico. However many converts Hear O Israel made in Chisinau, I dare say Borovico was not among them. He was incensed, and eventually his team-mates got the referee to halt the match. This never happens at Villa Park: Religious Extremists Stop Play.

The Guardian appealed to David Levine, the deputy director of Hear O Israel. "These poor guys are trying to play a football match!"

"We're surprised they scheduled one," he replied blithely. "You've got to get those musicians to stop," I said.

"We've rented this stadium for the week," he said finally, and rather nastily.

The harassed director of the stadium secured a compromise. The game finished in peace, the footballers left, the crowd rooped in for the free show, and Miss Shapiro took over the stage, a tiny, vulnerable figure, getting as near as she will ever get to playing Wembley like Springsteen — He is my defence.

I shall not be moved... while folk dancers performed near the corner flag and a translation appeared on the electronic scoreboard. The crowd was 200 times bigger than the football attendance and they were infinitely more enthusiastic.

Miss Shapiro's sincerity is beyond question. She says that since she came to Jesus, it has made her more secure in her Jewishness. It has certainly got her crossed off the list of celebrities asked to do Jewish charity gigs back home.

Personally, I have trouble coping with anyone who offers a simple solution to a complex world. But it is the simplists who present themselves to the Moldovans. The Jehovah's Witnesses have already been in town this month. Before the autumn is out, every organised group of charismatics and quacks imagine they could be along to whip up a bit of money and enthusiasm: Bessarabian imperialists, flat-earthers, Nazis, Communists even.

This weekend the stadium will belong to the footballers, from manufacturers of fine blackjack tables and plastic bags. Heaven knows what the football writers will make of it. I hope they empathise with a place short of recognition, money, hot water, and electricity; short above all of a well-developed critical faculty, prey to anyone with catchy tunes and free pencils.

The prisoner with a load off his mind

Duncan Campbell introduces Charles Bronson, who

explains, below, his attempt at a world record for strength

MOST inmates of jails would like nothing more than to tell prison officers to get off their backs. This weekend, however, the man described as Britain's most violent inmate will not only be inviting an officer to clamber on to his back, but will then be carrying out hundreds of press-ups with the man's weight bearing down on him.

Charles Bronson, aged 45, who changed his name from Mickey Ferguson to that of the American actor, is attempting what he describes as a "world record feat of strength" in Belmarsh prison, Woolwich, south London, by spending an hour doing press-ups with an officer on his back. He recently beat the world record for push-ups using the medicine ball which he describes as his "best friend" in prison.

Bronson says that the current

world record is 150 such press-ups carried out by a 20-stone Russian strongman. He's been practising for the attempt by doing 3,500 press-ups a day — albeit without anyone sitting on him.

The money raised from the sponsored attempt will go to the Essex Horse and Pony Protection Society, he says. They have named a horse after him. In letters sent to the Guardian, he explains that "Humans make me sick; the horses are harmless."

He has also sent us his own cartoon drawing of tomorrow's feat, in which he portrays himself in the press-up position, his muscles bulging and long beard scraping the floor. A prison officer is sitting along his back.

The Essex society, which looks after abandoned and abused animals, described the news that Bronson was raising money on their behalf as "lovely."

"The whole jail is buzzing," says Bronson of the attempt. He has been assisted in previous feats of strength by prison officers and he claims that as a result of their help in the gym he has become a less violent prisoner. Bronson, who has spent 25 years behind bars — more than half his life — is serving a sentence for armed robbery. Additional sentences have been added because of his many assaults on members of the prison staff.

He has, he says, smashed up a total of eight roofs in prison. He has constantly been moved from jail to jail but has been allowed to settle at Belmarsh.

During his time inside he has written two books and won Kestler Awards for his cartooning work. His writing has appeared in Esquire magazine and he is currently working on another book — Solitary Fitness. Compulsory



Bronson, strong and solitary

reading for anybody who wants to do over 150 press-ups with a prison officer on their back.

Donations can be made to the Essex Horse and Pony Protection Society, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Basildon, Essex SS16 4JH

PEOPLE may be wondering why I train for world records. Well, I'll tell you. I'm doing it for horses — lovely, innocent animals. It's people who give me head pains. I'm sick of reading about the ill treatment of horses — of any animals.

Come in and whip me, beat me; I deserve all I get. Put me in a cage, torture me. I'm a criminal, an armed robber. I was once out of control, violent. They should have blown out my lights; they had the chance to exterminate me, but they tortured me instead.

I'm not complaining. But I'm mad when horses get treated so bad. So I decided to do this world feat for the horses. Up to now we have well over £500.

So why do I do it? I'm 45, super-fit, strong. And I'm a man who enjoys a test of

strength. I was once a nasty bastard! I used to rip prison roofs off. They treated me like a mad dog. I ended up in a cage, inside the belly of the system.

Prison tried to destroy me by messing up my head on the Continous Assessment Scheme [the system that moves disruptive prisoners from jail to jail]. Then Matthew [Matthew Mark — a prison campaigner who has encouraged Bronson to write] popped into my life and I saw a rainbow. There's hope for everybody. I'm the proof, see. A miracle's happened — I went to sleep a mad man, and woke up a genius. Now I write, I draw, I paint and I help others. Cons write to me asking for advice, which I give and they accept. They don't listen to cops or prison or courts, but they listen to me. I "save" a lot of souls.

I'm still Britain's No 1 danger man. My label will never disappear. It took 45 years to get this label; 45 years of my existence! Now it's with me till I stop breathing a man can't be the most violent man one day, then normal the next. It's a label that's for life.

So I now create.

Yes, this is all the creation of a mad man. A man who's been in solitary for 20 years. Matthew and me are working on a book together. It's a very heavy book indeed. It's about life, death, rebirth. I'm the man who found himself and I'm no longer just mad, or bad, or seen as a no-hoper. Now I've got feelings, emotions. I love the world.

Right. Must fly. So much to do. I'm 10 years left inside. I'll have served 35 years then. But you watch me walk out.

arts

Liam Gallagher wants to smash his brother's head in with a guitar

But it's perfectly normal behaviour for siblings, says psychologist Dorothy Rowe

SHOOTING STARS KENICKIE



Up... What do you call three young George Jesses (and a lad) who transport themselves from blushing innocence to a wacky world of eccentric behaviour and hallucinogenic substances? Alice in Surderland? Or Kenickie, the hottest, hipkiest 16-year-old popstars ever to twang a string on Teesdale?

Up... The band record an eight-track EP, Casual City, in an afternoon. Buy the record, they insist, "or we'll kill a big-eyed kitten. Every hour." John Peel shows interest, as does the music press and major record companies.

And away... The A-list A-level combo come to London Splash Club on Thursday to continue their jet-powered rise to global stardom. Their new single, Punka — which moved NME to proclaim "the Best New Band in Britain by about a million miles" — is out this week.

BARRY KYLE



Going... One of the "young turks" making it as a director in the 70s and 80s, Kyle's 15-year stint at the RSC, including 11 as associate director, ended with Moscow Gold by Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton, which was not quite so well received ("a great extravagant jumble").

Going... Adrian Noble's arrival at the RSC heralds the disbanding of the associate director structure, so it's all revival Barry Kyle.

Gone... Disappearing almost without trace, until now, Kyle has forsaken the West End for the Deep South, forming the expressively titled Swing Palace Productions in Louisiana in the US, and teaching at Louisiana State University. Can Mark Rylance lure him back to the Globe? Watch this space.

WHEN Liam Gallagher stormed out of the passenger lounge at Heathrow 15 minutes before his flight to America he was doing what all brothers do — fight. And he was doing it in the way that families do — in the most public place, causing the most embarrassment and inconvenience to his nearest and dearest. Family fights usually erupt at weddings, christenings and funerals.

Liam hadn't hidden his feelings towards brother Noel. He reported, as saying of his brother and guitars, "I ****ing hate that twt' there. I ****ing hate him. And one day I hope I can smash **** out of him with a ****ing Rickenbacker right on his head." Liam is 23 and Noel 29. In unpeeped years time, will they be giving interviews and talking about past misunderstandings but now they're older and wiser and the best of friends? Or will the hatred deepen and the rift — patched up for the time being — widen?

Liam and Noel will find that if they don't at least appear to get along they'll be criticised by those people who believe families should stick together. The media praise a family when they call it "close", and make no mention of the fact that in a close family the knives go in deep, much more deeply than in those families where self-sufficiency is the rule.

If you grew up with your siblings you have many memories which aren't in words but in touch, taste and smell, memories of being little in a world of giants. All your memories have implications that are neither good nor bad but both. That's the problem of siblings. You love them and you hate them.

If you're the first born you begin life as an only child. People speak of lonely onlies, but the great advantage is, as my son, an only, said, "You don't have to share." The rivalry between the sisters Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine started the moment Joan was born. Olivia's father wasn't interested in her, so for 18 months she enjoyed the undivided attention of her mother. Then Joan arrived. According to their biographer, Charles Higham, this was when Olivia developed her technique, later used to great advantage in films, of creating heroic crying fits which got her all the attention of the adults around her.

The snapshots of A S Byatt in the first two years of her life are of a smiling, cheerful child. Then her sister, Margaret Drabble, arrived and little Antonia did not smile again. She recognised the rivalry she had with her sister and in later life said she had seen such rivalry in every family she knew.

jealous. A few years ago she discovered my post arrived at 7.30am. "I have to wait till the afternoon for mine!" she cried in that familiar tone of "it's not fair!". Having to share means siblings also learn how to compete. Many people say this competition made them stronger, but in saying this they tend to overlook just how painful the competition was at the time. In competing for a space of your own, or for the parents' attention and goods, children can be vicious with one another.

As small children our sense of being a person is constantly under threat because we know so little of the world, we make so many mistakes, and other, older people can humiliate us and use their power over us to humiliate and hurt us. Having your big brother steal the little shells you were treasuring can be more devastating than having your opera bomb or the critics snipe your acting. Siblings are very good at knowing just what matters to you most. Olivia de Havilland as a child tried to ignore her sister's existence, something Joan resented very much. "To Olivia's fury, Joan would lash back by exercising a junior sister's prerogative in imitating her older sibling: a wispy shadow she would trail behind her, mimicking her," says Higham. Children, thus attacked, fight back. When the adults ban physical fighting the children fight in other ways, competing wherever competition is possible.

The only way to avoid such competition is to withdraw from that particular activity. Thus many siblings grow up with greatly different abilities and interests. The three Attenborough brothers avoided a great deal of competition by becoming interested in different things. David took to biology, geology and climbing, Richard to acting and John, the youngest, to acrobatics. When, during the war, David had gone into the Navy and Richard into the RAF, John felt that, despite his interest in flying, only the Army was left for him.

Competing can become an ingrained habit which persists even when the need is well outgrown. When Lyn Barber interviewed John Selwyn Gummer, Minister for the Environment, and his younger brother Peter, now a Lord and Chairman of the Opera House, she noticed how John did most of the talking, often butted in when she was asking Peter questions, and, no matter what anecdote Peter told, John capped it with one of his own. John appeared only to sleep his way through his young brother in his place.

Some younger siblings suffer low esteem and fear they may not be able to match up to their high achieving brothers or sisters. Joseph's career has followed the identical path to his brother Ralph's — from art college, to drama school to the RSC. He recently told this paper: "The worst thing that I could imagine was that I'd be a terrible actor and that I would end up embarrassing him all the time."

Many first-borns feel that the compensation for losing the heaven of being the only child is



SIBLING RIVALS... From top, left to right: Noel and Liam Gallagher, whose public spat was heated this week; novelist sisters and serious rivals A S Byatt (Cambridge First) and Margaret Drabble (Cambridge starred First); Joan Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland, whose heroic crying fits got back to the arrival of her sister; Richard and Karen Carpenter, both given a kick-start by pushy parents; Ralph and the younger Joseph Flonnes, who feared failing in his brother's footsteps

that they have life-long domination over their younger siblings. No doubt this is one of the causes of Liam's anger with his brother. Yet, by storming out as he did, Liam showed himself to be one of those younger siblings who might rage against the older sibling's domination, but, at the same time, wishes the older sibling to carry the responsibility that he himself is not prepared to shoulder.

Biographies of successful siblings usually show an ambitious parent who pushed the children and, in many cases, used the rivalry between the children as a way of spurring them to greater effort. This was certainly the case for the Drabble girls. Mrs Drabble planned that they should go to Cambridge, so they did. Antonia was a hard act to follow, getting a scholarship to Cambridge and then a First. Margaret got a scholarship too, but then a starred First. Margaret was first to write a novel and her novels have outshone Antonia's until fairly recently when the weight and depth of Antonia's work has been properly appreciated.

For some siblings the only connection between them is their competition, but for others there is a more complex closeness. In the case of Julian and Andrew Lloyd-Webber come up with different theories about the degree of jealousy Julian feels towards Andrew and about the degree of help Andrew has given Julian. But one thing comes through clearly — the feeling of less Julian experienced when at school they went their separate ways. They both attended Westminster Prep where Andrew was known as Lloyd-Webber One and Julian Lloyd-Webber Two, something that kept the younger boy in his place. Yet when Andrew went to board at Westminster Great School on a scholarship and Julian, not so academically inclined, did not go on to join him, Julian felt deserted. Thirty-five years later he could say, "I was 10 and I missed him terribly."

Independence can be lonely, but dependence can inhibit and stunt. If both siblings are creative, and their creativities coincide, then the dilemma is all the greater. Families can be supportive, but they can also be each other's most knowing critics. In an artistic collaboration, that criticism is present at the most intimate point of creativity. L P Hartley in his novel *Eustace and Hilda* showed how a younger brother can become so dependent on his older sister that he cannot operate without her. Such dependence usually grows out of necessity but can continue after the need has gone.

The tragedy of a closeness that becomes a symbiosis is seen in the lives of Richard and Karen Carpenter. They too had pushed perfectionist parents, but Karen looked for her support and guidance to Richard to such an extent that she could not conceive of living without him. After her death Richard described her as being "unnaturally possessive" of him, but actually he maintained the conditions whereby she could be possessive of him. He has said: "In a sense it was the end of my career when Karen died. I believe that Karen and I were put here to make music together. Our talents complemented each other and our voices blended beautifully."

Notions about God's purposes usually derive from parents, but it is hard to disentangle the effects parents have on children from the effects children have on one another. Parents often claim that they have brought up each child in the same way, but this is never the case. Parents often impose a different role on each child. This is the pretty one. This is the brainy one. That one's artistic. Once a role is imposed it's hard to shake it off. Parents take their feelings on differently on each child. Murry Wilson, father of the Beach Boys Brian, Dennis and Carl, "beat the hell out of" Brian, and Dennis even more, but Carl hardly at all.

How do siblings over the years manage to put aside their differences and become friends? By talking. Antonia Byatt has described how she and her sister Margaret spend time together talking about the past, about their lives and the lives of their parents and grandparents. They see and accept that each has her own version of their shared history and how, as the years pass, their versions of their history develop and change. There must have been many occasions when each of them, knowing that the other would accept it, said, "Sorry, I envy them this. My sister is one of those rare people, someone who has never, in her whole life, done anything which warrants this word 'sorry', and if I try to say that she has hurt me she files into a rage. I find this sad. It must be nice to have a sibling who is also a best friend."

Perhaps Liam and Noel will ponder these two possible outcomes and take Bob Hoskins's advice, "It's good to talk." The second edition of Dorothy Rowe's *Depression: The Way Out Of Your Prison* will be published by Routledge on September 5.

Food for thought

Provocations

John Cunningham

CAN you imagine a theatre critic behaving as outrageously during a play as Michael Winner does in a different restaurant every week, then putting his petulance at the centre of his review? Or a music critic covering a concert in the manner Winner's Sunday Times colleague A A Gill — more about babes and boobs than Brahms and Beethoven? Or an opera review larded with info about the critic's relationship with his Significant Other in the manner of the Observer's foodie, Will Self?

for the broadsheets and arts magazines to muck about with. Whether or not we agree with the critics, we turn to them because of the acuity of their judgments and their accumulated wisdom. Not so crazy, could start to happen. Consider how food and football have become the pillars of the cultural pentagon; sure they're there for decoration rather than gravitas in the manner where the Young Turks who edit the culture and lifestyle sections of the broadsheets can innovate by redefining the role of the critic, or at least loosen-

ILL HAVE ACT II, MY COMPANION WILL HAVE ACT I



ing the boundaries. After all, trendy eateries sell themselves as much for their ambience as their menus. They are in the performance business; customers see no reason why they shouldn't interact. And it's a short step for the critics to start strutting their stuff and swap passivity for participation. The barriers that might stop this trend washing over into serious criticism of the arts seem solid, but are flimsier than we might think. The big egos

have moved on to the restaurant review circuit: MPs do it (Ken Livingstone), actors (John Wells), showbiz kings (Andrew Lloyd-Webber) as well as literary writers. Soon these Lords of the Lifestyle and Culture Sections will start nudging their reviewers in sexy directions: is the new Salman Rushdie suitable for reading in 15 minute sessions on an exercise bike in the gym? Are the boxes at the ROH suitable for nookie during the Marriage of Figaro? Far-fetched, but the hot money's on novelty when it comes to reviewing. What's more, producers and publishers yearn for new tricks. Consider this: you might have thought that by recreating the Globe Theatre, Mark Rylance was cementing Shakespeare in aspic. Think again: the revived Elizabethan practice of the "groundlings" — that is, the playgoers standing in the pit, booing, hissing and cheering — will make audience participa-

tion a factor in a production critics cannot ignore. Indeed, reviews of *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* have commented on the public's reaction. And given that Mr Rylance feels critics should pay for their seats, they may well feel like adding a "consumer" element to their reviews — did their wives have to queue for the loo; the rows with their lovers over parking the car. So let's be warned before silliness starts to erode serious criticism. The only place for a critic's Significant Other is at home. The only thing a critic needs is an Insignificant Self.

The Daily Deal... Show this coupon at the box office and get 2 tickets for the price of 1 after 11am today for selected shows at Assembly, Cielieid Ballroom and Pleasance in Edinburgh. See venues for details. All bookings subject to availability. The Guardian BY JEEVES DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE 0171 836 5122

مكتبة الجليل

Motor racing

Williams leave Hill in suspense

Alan Henry

DAMON HILL'S world championship prospects were clouded in doubt yesterday as speculation increased that the Williams-Renault team had already signed the German driver Heinz-Frezenz to replace him for 1997.

Williams first approached Frentzen in 1994 as a possible replacement for Senna, but the German felt that he could not leave the Sauber team just after his team-mate Karl Wendlinger had been badly injured in a practice accident at the Monaco grand prix.

Athletics

Edwards joins the gold set with Fredericks

Duncan Mackay in Berlin

THE Olympic silver medalist Jonathan Edwards put a golden shine on his season when he claimed a share of the 30kg gold bars valued at £200,000 in the IATF's 86 meeting with victory in the triple jump in the Olympia stadium here last night.

price of the gold market in the Financial Times each morning. Fredericks was the first to claim one of the valuable prizes. The Namibian flier had so much in hand over Johnson he was able to celebrate in style by throwing his arms in the air on the line rather than running through it as he stopped the clock at 19.97sec with the American 0.05sec down in second.



The grass is not always greener... Montgomerie, 10 behind the leader, plays his second shot to the 4th. ANDREW HEDDERLEY

Angry Montgomerie lends his support to deserters

David Davies at Collingtree

COLIN Montgomerie, European No.1 these last three years, was not a happy man last night. Having finished bogey, bogey for a third round 77 in the One 2 One British Masters, he said, carefully eyeing the crowd, "I will be very grateful when Saturday afternoon arrives and we can all get out of here. In fact we'll be thrilled."

spun on his heel and marched the 70 or so yards to the tournament office to speak to the man he feels is responsible for their playing this course this year. Both men would only confirm that the conversation had been about the state of the course, but it was obvious from the body language that hard words had been spoken.

Montgomerie to heed the advice of his Ryder Cup partner Nick Faldo and spend more time in the United States it is experiences such as this. This tournament is the start of the Ryder Cup points-gathering season and it has been reduced to the level of luck. Nor is next week likely to be better. The European Masters is a rich event played on a scenic course at Crans-sur-Sierre in Switzerland. But it is not what the Ryder Cup captain, Severiano Ballesteros, called for when he asked for demanding, quality courses.

came through failing to carry the greenside lake - means he is 10 behind the Australian Robert Allenby, who is attempting to win his third event of the year after the English and French Opens. Allenby has displayed remarkable pluck in the face of these trying conditions which, perhaps, stems from his Leeds-born parents. He insists that it is not worth getting worked up about things that are the same for everyone, adding that there was a lot of whinging going on.

Spurred on since then by the thought of claiming a proportion of the gold bars awarded to the winners of all four of the specially selected events in this Golden Four series, Edwards has had a target to aim for while Harrison seems to have settled for boosting his bank balance via the lucrative appearance fee on offer.

The American led briefly in the third round before the Gateshead Harrier next up to 17.36m with the next jump of the competition. He was behind again when the Cuban Yoelvis Guisado jumped 17.4m in the fifth round, only for Edwards to respond immediately with 17.69. He raised his arms in triumph and uppercut the night air, for he knew that was enough to clinch his 25th consecutive non-Olympic victory. That is a statistic sure to nag away at Edwards over the winter, however satisfying it is checking the

Sport in brief

Cycling

Britain's team pursuit quarter of Jonny Clay, Matt Lillingworth, Simon Lillistone and Bryan Steel went out to Germany in the quarter-finals at the World Cycling Championships in Manchester yesterday but broke the British record with their time of 4min 13.55sec for 4,000 metres, writes Barry Andrew.

Sailing

Andy and Ian Budgen scored a first, a third and a 14th on the final day of the Laser 5000 National Championship and at the same time kept a wary eye of their closest rivals, Tracey Covell and Steve Mitchell, to win the event at Hayling Island by an 18-point margin, writes Bob Fisher. Their victory also clinched the Audi Euro Cup in which they overtook Chris Burrough and David McNamara.

Ice Hockey

A decade after construction began, the new season sees Ayr's Centurion Arena finally open with a 2,733 sell-out crowd assured for the Ayr Scottish Eagles home game tomorrow, against Telford in the Benson and Hedges Cup, writes Vic Batchelder. The B&H Cup qualifying round precedes the new professional Superleague beginning on September 21. The cup final is in Sheffield on December 7.

Weekend fixtures

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Chester

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 1.55 ANTHEM, 1.55 UNUSUAL COMBINATIONS STAKES etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 2.30 WEATHERS GROUPE HANDICAP etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 3.00 NORTHERN ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGER HANDICAP etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 4.00 ROYAL BLOOD HANDICAP etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 4.30 PARADES HANDICAP etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 4.50 WINDMILL MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES etc.

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Racing

Angus-G looks all set to boost big race claims

Race Cox

WEIGHTS for the Cambridgeshire Handicap were published earlier this week and one of the most tantalising propositions of 7st 7lb puts his credentials on the line at Sandown this afternoon.

Angus-G, who can be backed at 25-1 for the first leg of the Autumn Double, will not be the only horse to expect a big rise in his recent progress in the William Hill Handicap. Victory here would not incur a penalty for the Cambridgeshire.

Trained by Mary Reveley, who enjoyed such fine runs in the big Newmarket handicap with Mellotron, Angus-G has won his last two races over the July Course.

On neither occasion was the winning margin great which means Angus-G remains on a favourable handicap mark - just 8lb higher than when he accounted for Ebor Heights last time. The latter is only 1lb better off today and Angus-G seemed to win with something in hand.

Sharp, from the in-form Sir Mark Prescott yard, could also enter Cambridgeshire calculations with a bold bid here, but Angus-G (4.15) is preferred.

At Chester, highlight is the Chester Stakes Handicap (3.30) in which Prussian Blue (3.30) has to be on the short list following his creditable eighth behind Clerkenwell in the Ebor.

Desert Frolic and Snow Princess were down the field in the highly competitive York handicap, but Snow Princess should put up an improved performance on today's easier ground.

Conditions will be testing at Ripon, which should suit Marchant Ming (3.15) judging by his soft-ground hurdles wins in the spring. He was none too genuine last Flat season, but jumping could be the making of him.

Prescott and George Duffield took their Pattern race haul to three within eight days when Brave Act lived up to his name in the Solario Stakes at Sandown yesterday.

Duffield set out to make all the running on Brave Act who answered his rider's every call to beat Falkenberg



Snow Princess, unplaced in the Ebor Handicap at York, will appreciate the easier underfoot conditions at Chester today

by a short head. "It's been some sort of week," remarked Prescott, who won the race in 1991 with Chicmond. "What we have achieved in the last eight days normally takes nine years' work. George is a wonderful jockey in a close finish. If you popped him down with any other rider over the final furlong, I think he would be the best. He is very strong and can use his stick in either hand."

The connections of My Best Valentine accepted the surprise reverse philosophically. "He rode a lovely race but just dropped his hands too soon," said Irene Clifford, one of the syndicate owners.

A Mick Channon, who saddled Flying Sparrow to win the Group Two Moet & Chandon Stakes at Baden-Baden last year, followed up yesterday with Muchea, who started 5-4 on and won by a length and a half from Omaha City.

My Best Valentine, a 14-1 shot, took the lead inside the final furlong and had the race at his mercy until O'Connor dropped his hands close home, enabling Jason Tate on Concor to pip him on the post.

At Sandown, highlight is the Sandown card with guide to the form. The card includes details for various races such as the 2.00 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 2.30 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 3.00 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 3.30 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 4.00 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 4.30 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 4.50 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 5.00 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 5.30 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 5.50 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 6.00 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 6.30 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 6.50 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 7.00 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 7.30 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap, 7.50 N.A.S. Maiden Handicap.

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Ripon

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 2.10 Another Highwire, 2.40 Princess Double, 2.45 MARCHANT MING (RIPON).

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 2.10 STABLE LADS WELFARE TRUST APPRENTICE HANDICAP etc.

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Wolverhampton (A.W.)

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes 7.00 BALLO MAIDEN AUCTION GUARANTEED STAKES etc.

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RACELINE 0930 1684. CHESTER SANDOWN RIPON PERTH WOLVERHAMPTON. Table with race numbers and odds.

سكواي الجول

SOCCKER: World Cup qualifying competition

David Lacey says Glenn Hoddle's England must show their Group Two rivals that what happened in Euro 96 was no caprice

Method in Batty thoughts

Moldova v England

MOLDOVA is used to being rolled over. For centuries it was a middle to Russia and Turkey. Suleiman the Magnificent and Peter the Great dropped in from time to time. Thus the Moldovans are unlikely to be overawed at the prospect of a visit from David Batty...

when England met Brazil in last year's Umbro Cup. Hoddle has several times pointed up the difference between playing European Championship matches at Wembley in front of a large home crowd and slogging it out for World Cup points in a Balkan backwater. The presence of Batty would personify this difference.

ner to Paul Ince's role as anchorman. Not that Ince's role under the new England management has been defined; Hoddle may want him to withdraw to the back three. However, this would remove Ince's attacking drive from midfield and with it one of the mainstays of England's counter-attacks. Better, surely, to play Gareth Southgate. Gary Fallister and the in-form Sol Campbell at the back and leave Ince where he is to provide, with Batty, the back-up Paul Gascoigne is bound to need.

Shearer the new England captain

ALAN SHEARER will lead England's campaign to qualify for the 1998 World Cup, writes David Lacey. The 28-year-old Newcastle United striker was named captain yesterday as the players flew out to Kishinev for tomorrow's game against Moldova.

ample of Graham Taylor, who gave the arm-bands to Gary Lineker after taking over the squad from Bobby Robson in 1990. "I won't change," said Shearer. "Obviously I'm delighted but there will have to be 11 captains out there. I don't think it will affect my goalscoring but, if something needs changing on the field, then I'll change it."

Clearly Hoddle sees Shearer as England captain for more than just tomorrow's game. Tony Adams, who led England in Euro 96, has missed the start of the season after another knee operation and David Platt is also unfit and no longer sure of regaining his place in the England side when he is fit.



Renaissance man... Ferguson is set to lead Scotland's line in Vienna

Patrick Glenn on the strong, silent striker ready to serve Scotland

Ferguson keeping his head for the action

Austria v Scotland

THE day after Duncan Ferguson was given a year's probation for his part in a fracas in a pub - his third conviction at the time - Alex Smith, the former Aberdeen manager who is also a publican in Stirling, spotted the striker tearing flowers out of a carefully decorated roadside display.

he was blackballed, something almost unheard-of for the son of a lodge member. And with his refusal to talk to the media the Everton striker has unwittingly turned himself into an advertiser's dream.

Glasgow - as well as one for drink-driving, Ferguson has long since perceived journalists as his personal demons. In fact it has been his singular capacity for finding controversy, as unerringly as a heat-seeking missile, which has nourished news editors.

Hoddle's key player is the hand of fate



David Lacey

LISTENERS to BBC Radio's 605 programme last Saturday could have been forgiven for wondering why Glenn Hoddle was bothering to begin the task of qualifying for the 1998 World Cup in a faraway place of which most people knew very little. Indeed, what was the purpose of Hoddle being in charge of England at all?

ment and running an international side, which often comes down to a wrong decision here or a wrong stroke of luck, good or bad, at crucial moments. As Hoddle settles into a job which has seen a number of good football men instead of the pillory, he will be aware of how fine the margin between universal acclaim and national vilification can be.

Arsenal chase £4m Caniggia

Martin Thorpe

ARSENAL are chasing the Argentinean international striker Claudio Caniggia and are understood to have lodged a £4 million bid with his club Boca Juniors.

Both with Dynamo Kiev, they are available at around £2 million each.

Leicester City have signed the Ipswich Town forward Jan Marshall for £800,000. Second Division Bristol Rovers have given the go-ahead by safety inspectors to play Stockport County at the Memorial Ground today.

Wales v San Marino

AS BANANA skins go, Wales' World Cup qualification against the part-timers of San Marino in Cardiff this afternoon is pretty skid-proof. Bobby Gould's team thrashed San Marino 5-0 in their opening tie in June and an equally professional job is expected today.

Northern Ireland v Ukraine

WHEN Iain Dowie declared this week that "life could be easier" for Northern Ireland's footballers, he was referring to the centre-forward was simply reiterating a sentiment his country's supporters have felt for some time.

ciated is a home win. The Ulstermen managed that only twice in their Euro 96 qualifiers, and had they achieved it once more, against Latvia for instance, it would have taken them to the final. "Anything can happen but we must win our home games," said Hamilton from the squad's Coleraine base.

Liechtenstein v Rep of Ire

MICK MCCARTHY invests in youngsters today as the Republic of Ireland open their World Cup campaign against Liechtenstein in Vaduz with only four survivors from the team embarrassed by a 0-0 draw in this Alpine venue 14 months ago.

A N Other

FEW goalkeeping careers are remembered for a single outstanding save and this one even flummoxed the leading television commentator of the day. A local product bearing echoes of a famous desert victory, he had slogged through 12 years of wear and tear before his moment came.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Goalkeepers: Shay Given, goalkeeper; Gary Breen, 22.

Teamtalk

Table with 4 columns: Team, Goals, Opponent, Score. Lists various football clubs and their performance in recent matches.

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

Deaf ear turned to Ball change

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

FRANCIS LEE was perfectly frank this week about where the blame lay for Alan Ball's departure. "It's clear the fans wanted a change," he said.

But hang on a minute. Are these not the same fans who nearly 14 months ago warned Lee he was making a mistake by appointing Ball in the first place?



Piper calls the tune... Warwickshire's wicketkeeper stumps Shahid at The Oval yesterday

Cricket

County Championship: Surrey v Warwickshire

Second Holloake puts down roots

David Foot at The Oval

SURREY are playing like a team preparing for a final assault on the title. So far they have put a first-innings lead of 234 and Warwickshire, in the absence of their main strike bowler Shann Pollock, will do well to avoid defeat here.

has the emerging Liam Bohan on his books, so it has been a good second part of the week for him. Now he wants to see renewed Test recognition for his enigmatic Surrey client, who on the present evidence is playing and behaving impeccably.

Ratcliffe, however, carried on to make 63 with the unhurried and good-looking poise he once revealed, though never quite showed enough in his Edgbaston days. Against Warwickshire's persevering and at times non-descript attack, Surrey batted with the proficiency of a side keen to get something to show for the skill and spirit they seem to have rediscovered this summer.

Kent v Nottinghamshire

Walker steps up

Paul Weaver at Tunbridge Wells

ANYONE who thinks Matthew Walker did not like batting. His only views on cricket in the game's Who's Who concern the inadequacy of the lunch and tea intervals. "Lunch should be an hour and tea 35 minutes," he declares.

Carl Hooper will be at the centre of Kent's attention this morning. He is 41 not out in a total of 100 for three in reply to Nottinghamshire's 114. The third-wicket stand of 84 between Walker and Hooper gave Kent a narrow advantage on a pitch responsive to seam, and this is a match Kent badly need to win.

Lloyd calls for more swagger from England

David Lloyd

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, has demanded a more passionate display from his young one-day side as they attempt to win the one-day Texaco Trophy this weekend. England, who face Pakistan at Edgbaston tomorrow and Trent Bridge today, row on five wickets at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

A for Adams?

Paul Fitzpatrick at Chesterfield

AS one of the most consistent, and certainly most improved, batsmen of the summer the 26-year-old Chris Adams must now be close to booking his place on England's A tour to Australia this winter.

shire hundred, though. Tim O'Gorman also looked a batsman of high class yesterday, albeit against a modest attack; Moody's six for 82 were his best figures for the county.

Yorkshire v Essex

Hussain the hustler

David Hopps at Headingley

IF the logic of leaving Nasser Hussain out of England's one-day squad had not been immediately apparent, Essex found little cause to question its wisdom as his exuberant assault on Yorkshire's bowlers brought further impetus to their championship appearance.

lunch Essex scored 194 in 37 overs (Graham Gooch emerged from a light weights session to find they had added 100) and redefined the match. While eventually bowled them both though Vaughan's first ball should have dismissed Hussain on 96 when he clipped to long-off where Stump, in sunglasses on an overcast day, limited the chance.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes sections for Yorkshire v Warwickshire, Kent v Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire v Worcestershire, and Yorkshire v Essex.

DOMINION v GILDERBOROUGH

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes sections for Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Gloucestershire v Warwickshire.

GLoucestershire v Warwickshire

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Derbyshire v Worcestershire

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes sections for Derbyshire v Worcestershire, Derbyshire v Worcestershire, Derbyshire v Worcestershire, Derbyshire v Worcestershire.

Yorkshire v Essex

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes sections for Yorkshire v Essex, Yorkshire v Essex, Yorkshire v Essex, Yorkshire v Essex.

Rugby Union

Top Welsh clubs threatened breakaway

Robert Armstrong on the latest revolt in the Principality on the eve of a new season

LEADING Welsh clubs yesterday stunned British rugby by following the example of their English counterparts in threatening a mass breakaway from their unions on the eve of the new season. As players in both countries prepared for today's opening league games, the clubs declared that they would go ahead with their breakaway without the approval of their unions.

BY the way, City fans are finding it hard to understand how Lee, who made his fortune out of toilet paper, could not recognise a better manager when he saw one.

AND finally on this subject: an analysis of Francis Lee is in the August issue of Alan Ball's All Ball.

BOBBY GOULD has been many things in his managerial career - a success, a failure, controversial, unemployed. But he also has another crayon in his pencil box, as a football shirt designer.

THE World Cup qualifier with San Marino this afternoon will see the debut of Wales's new kit under a £1 million, four-year deal with the Italian sportswear company Lotto.

And then there was Lebowich when asked how he was settling in at Chelsea: "When you play simply, with humility, you can integrate easily."

APPARENTLY Newcastle are embracing the current fad of employing a top-class athlete as a fitness coach. They have chosen Steve Smith because performing the players are going to be for the high jump (and so is the pag writer with jokes like that).

ATHLETICO Madrid, the Spanish champions, will be digging for victory at the home of their rivals Real tomorrow.

When the Spanish League kicks off Atletico will face Caixa Vigo at the Balaídos Stadium. Atletico's newly sown grass at their own Vicente Calderon Stadium has failed to take root after an invasion of worms.

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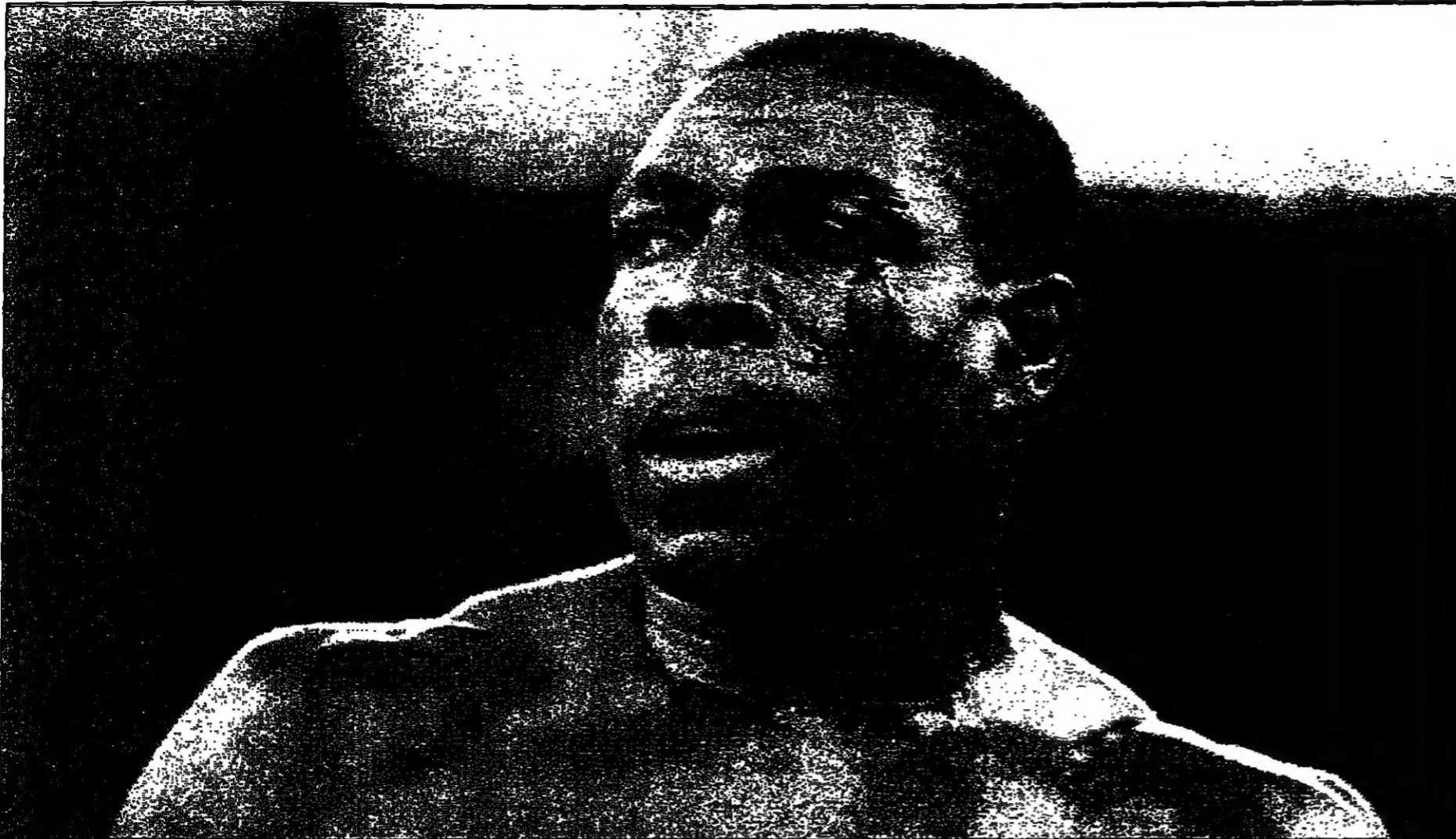
US Open tennis
Tim Henman makes his play for glory
20



Armbands and the man
Alan Shearer is England's new captain
22

The Guardian International
SPORT

The threat of partial blindness delivers a technical knock-out to Britain's most popular boxer

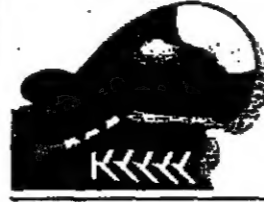


End in sight... Bruno, his left eye cut, returns to his corner at the end of a gruelling opening round against Tyson in Las Vegas last March. Tyson won two rounds later to regain the WBC title in what was to prove Bruno's last fight. AL BELL

Heavy duty and light relief

Ups Downs

- 1961 Born November 18, Wandsworth, London
- 1980 Wins ABA heavyweight title
- 1982 Knocks out Lupe Guerra in his first professional fight, at the Royal Albert Hall
- 1985 Dresses up as Juliet for a Comic Relief charity show
- 1988 Makes his pantomime debut, in Aladdin at the Dominion Theatre
- 1990 Awarded the MBE; marries Laura Mooney
- 1993 Finally wins a world title, beats Oliver McCall at Wembley Arena on points
- 1972 Sent to a special school, Oak House in Sussex
- 1980 Refused a professional boxing licence on the grounds of his myopia. Flies to Colombia to undergo a £5,000 corrective operation
- 1984 Suffers his first professional loss, at the hands of Bonecrusher Smith
- 1986 Beaten by Tim Witherspoon at Wembley in his first attempt at winning the world heavyweight title
- 1987 Appears in his first HP Sauce advert
- 1989 Flies to America for world heavyweight title fight against Mike Tyson. Lasts five rounds
- 1991 Has an operation on a detached retina
- 1993 Completes hat-trick of title defeats - against Lennox Lewis in Cardiff
- 1996 Loses his WBC heavyweight crown after just 410 seconds in the ring with Mike Tyson; announces his retirement on August 31 after being told that a single blow could blind him in one eye



Eye specialist counts out Bruno's career

Richard Williams welcomes the retirement of the persistent heavyweight who became world champion at the fourth attempt

NO MORE will Frank Bruno's face be half-hidden behind dark glasses, his battered eyes protected from the flash-bulbs on the morning after a big fight. To the relief of anyone who saw him take heavy punishment on either side of his brief and unexpected reign as a world heavyweight champion, Bruno yesterday announced his retirement. The eyes held the key to his decision to bow out at the age of 34 after a professional career of 40 wins in 45 fights, 38 by knock-out. Earlier this

week a leading specialist told him that further blows could detach the retina of his right eye, and that he would thus be denied a licence to box. "I dreamed of winning another world title for Britain," he said yesterday, "but my eyesight has to be more important than my dreams." His immediate plans, beyond

spending more time with his young family, are unclear.

The announcement was made yesterday morning, three days short of a year since he had taken the WBC championship from Oliver McCall in front of a delirious crowd at Wembley Stadium. He held the title for 197 days before losing it to Mike Tyson last March, earning a reported £4 million for a three-round performance which left no doubt that the end had come.

Bruno held one of the three major world titles during a period in which the credibility of heavyweight boxing was probably at its lowest level in living memory. The other concurrent champions, Francois Botha and Bruce Seldon, were similarly unconvincing; all three danced on the end of strings pulled by the egregious Don King.

Yet, like Henry Cooper before him, Bruno managed to make the transition in his nation's consciousness from prizefighter to personality, shrewdly trading on a studied inarticulacy which charmed millions, creating a marketable character and a handy slogan: "Know what I mean, Terry?"

Bruno, whose father came from the Dominican Republic and mother from Jamaica, was brought up in Wandsworth, south London. An oversized, unruly child, he was packed off to a special school in Sussex, where he became head boy and began to imagine a better life for himself.

Professor David McLeod, the specialist who gave him the bad news this week, had

enabled him to undertake a professional career in the first place. In 1980 the British Boxing Board of Control refused Bruno - then 18, and the newly crowned British amateur champion - a licence on the grounds of congenital myopia. McLeod knew that only two hospitals in the world were equipped to rectify the problem, and it was on his advice that Bruno set out for Bogota, where a Colombian surgeon performed the operation.

Guided by Terry Lawless and Mickey Duff, Bruno made his professional debut in 1982. Within four years he fought for the world title, losing to Tim Witherspoon in the 11th round at Wembley. In 1989 he challenged Tyson for the first time, losing in five rounds in Las Vegas.

After that he retired and seemed lost to the world of pantomimes and TV game shows. But a second round of eye surgery preface a return in 1991, after the board had been persuaded by his new manager, Frank Warren, to let him box on.

His credibility, severely damaged by a series of comeback victories over hand-picked stumblebums, was restored in 1993 by the courage he showed while losing in seven rounds to the younger, more skilful Lennox Lewis in a fight for the WBC title at Cardiff Arms Park.

After a spirited start his stamina failed to such a degree that night that many experienced commentators called for his immediate retirement. He took no notice, and two

years later, in matching Jersey Joe Walcott's record of four attempts on the title, he finally raised his arms as champion, welcoming the prospect of a last big payday.

More than 5,000 fans travelled from Britain to Nevada to witness his second and final meeting with Tyson on March 18, and few of them could have failed to notice the apprehensive air with which the British fighter entered the ring to meet his smaller, lighter but infinitely more dangerous opponent.

"It's a rough game," he remarked the next morning, reflecting on defeat from behind the black-rimmed shades before flying back to his Essex mansion and the arms of his family. Rough, for sure, but in Bruno's case, by no means entirely unkind.



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Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,746

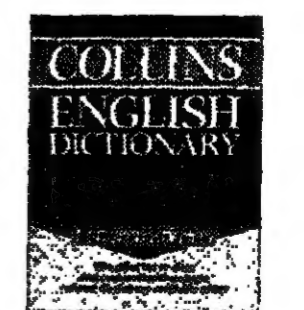
A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,746, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday September 9.

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- Across**
- Railway takes princess into the promised land of peace (8,7)
 - Twist twice and turn, not on paper (9)
 - The man between the bull and the magpie (5)
 - Trines for the cat? (7)
 - Answer letters in part of series (7)
 - Drink to 197 (3)
 - Decider in the case of the Queen being in the money (7)
 - Meditative catchword quietly to catch any of us? (3-4)
 - Welsh town similarly to catch hen for a change? (7)
 - Belgian lace for me: companion takes nothing back (7)
 - Greek character and when he should arrive from 137 (3)
 - Boys, French and English, briefly in urban program (7)
 - Drink inversely not making a summer? (7)
 - In the setter ready, chum? (6)
 - Showing great devotion, I perform a number and vocally (8)
 - TE break for the rest of the teachers (4-4,7)
- Down**
- Defensive outwork on the way to making a purchase? (7-8)
 - Knotted with no knot tied? (5)
 - Your partner could be ideal, Mr. Otto (7)



- Performer's part is teacher's part (7)
- What hurts a male is holding every single letter (7)
- Rough epitaph to write on notorious doctor (7)
- Bred in the wild without a home that has windows (9)
- Like writing letters? Likewise (15)
- Trines in the pink at least: I can reveal in it (8)
- Consumes what may be... (3)
- ... consumed of 13 (3)
- Fix painter to bow of American craft (7)
- Slater who sounds like a seafarer in Jersey (7)
- Big beast needs a mother and more than a half (7)
- Welcoming drink (7)
- Epic of high leader upsetting his parliament (8)

COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY

20,746

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